

I. Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* as a Trauma Fiction

This research paper focuses Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* (2002), a story about different characters who become the victim of psychological torture due to the different circumstances that cause mental upheavals time to time. Main protagonist Lily Owens has been raised by her abusive father T. Ray, and their black servant, Rosaleen Daise. Lily's father blames her for the death of her mother, who was killed when Lily was only four years old. Eventually, Lily and Rosaleen run away from T. Ray. Thus, Lily has shaped her entire life around one shocking, distorted memory: when she was four years old, her mother was killed. Lily is always haunted by the memory of her late mother. In other part, Sue Monk Kidd depicts the racial tension and reveals the incredible strength of black women on Lily's life. Kidd rehabilitates the role of black women as independent, strong role models for a traumatized, lonely young white girl. Lily's decision to free Rosaleen from jail and run away from her abusive father is a testament to the strength to escape from destructive environments. Through relationships with her nanny Rosaleen and then her black mentor August, Lily is able to cope with her mother's abandonment, the haunting guilt she feels for murdering her mother, and her father's verbal and psychological abuse. The characters become the victim of memory loss who seems to be traumatic to their previous identity.

Sue Monk Kidd presents the characters in the text as the victim of psychological trauma. Mostly women characters in the novel suffer from internal and external pressure. Main character Lily, Rosaleen and August have been spending the frustrated life form haunting memories of past life. Lily is a fourteen-year-old white teenager growing up in Sylvan, South Carolina. When Lily first appears, she is beaten down, abused and misused by her brutal father. He runs a

peach farm where Lily has always lived, and neither he nor Lily ever forget that at age four, Lily killed her mother while witnessing an argument between her parents. So this study, drawing upon the basic insights mainly from the domain of trauma, present research explores the psychological disorder of the characters in rest of the life. Thus this research asserts the critical position of these characters psychological condition because of so many traumatic conditions. It is the survey to analyze their way of coping in those entire situations.

Sue Monk Kidd's first novel, *The Secret Life of Bees* is a genuine literary phenomenon included the issues of women's struggle, social issues like abuse, violence marriage. When it is analyzed from the perspective of the traumatic experience there are several issues are got for instance personal issues anger, forgiveness, healing and counseling and racial tension, stereotypes, limitations of race. *The Secret Life of Bees* is a bestselling novel set in South Carolina during the summer of 1964 about a fourteen year old girl who struggles to choose what right and to find a family. Lily, the main character runs away from her father to discover pieces of her dead mother's past. Not only does she run away, but she also breaks her housekeeper and caretaker, Rosaleen, out of jail. The two of them set out to find a new home, away from their status as fugitives.

Kidd's novel is set in the American South in 1964, the year of the Civil Rights Act and intensifying racial unrest, Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* is a powerful story of coming-of-age, of the ability of love to transform our lives, and the often unacknowledged longing for the universal feminine divine as traumatic experiences. Addressing the wounds of loss, betrayal, and the scarcity of love, Kidd demonstrates the power of women coming together to heal those wounds, to mother each other and themselves, and to create a sanctuary of true family and

home. Isolated on a South Carolina peach farm with a neglectful and harsh father, fourteen-year-old Lily Owens has spent much of her life longing for her mother, Deborah, who died amid mysterious circumstances when Lily was four years old. To make matters worse, her father, T. Ray, tells Lily that she accidentally killed her mother. Lily is raised by Rosaleen, her proud and outspoken African-American nanny. When Rosaleen attempts to exercise her newly won right to vote, she is attacked by the three worst racists in town and is thrown into jail. Lily is determined to save Rosaleen and finally escape her own father as well. Seizing the moment, she springs Rosaleen from jail, and the two set out across South Carolina in search of a new life.

Their destination is Tiburon, South Carolinaa town they know nothing about except that in a box of Lily's mother's belongings there is a cryptic picture of a black Virgin Mary with the words "Tiburon, South Carolina" written on the back. There they are taken in by three black beekeeping sisters who worship the Black Madonna. It is here, surrounded by the strength of the Madonna, the hum of bees, and a circle of wise and colorful women, that Lily makes her passage to wholeness and a new life. Captured by the voice of this Southern adolescent, one becomes enveloped in the hot South Carolina summer and one of most tumultuous times the country has ever seen. A story of mothers lost and found, love, conviction, and forgiveness, *The Secret Life of Bees* boldly explores life's wounds and reveals the deeper meaning of home and the redemptive simplicity of "choosing what matters. In the end, though she cannot find the mother she lost, Lily discovers and comes to terms with her mother's past, finds a hive of new mothers, and falls in love with the great universal mother.

The Secret Life of Bees is Kidd's first novel, yet she is no stranger to writing. Looking back on her early life, Kidd recalls "our most plentiful resource, next to family roots, was stories". Not surprisingly, then, one of her favorite pastimes as a child was writing tales in imitation of the authors who were most important to her. After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens, whose life has been defined by the tragic death of her mother, joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters who show them the true meaning of love and family. *The Secret Life of Bees* has a rare wisdom about life--about mothers and daughters and the women in our lives who become our true mothers.

Different critics have analyzed the novel from the multiple perspectives which preserves the universal importance of the novel regarding the nature of protagonist and her life. The Characters of the novel have been the victim of psychological distress followed by traumatic experience. Psychological trauma is a type of damage to the psyche that occurs because of a severely distressing event and memorization. *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd was published in 2002. It is mostly written in narrative technique It tells the story of a motherless fourteen year young, raised by cruel father, who desperately searches for clues to unlock her mother's past, knowledge that she believes will help create her own identity. The novel begins with Lily's journey in search f her mother's past. Kristine Huntley says:

Lily begins to confront her guilt and pain over the loss of her real mother, whom she accidentally killed as a small child. Yet troubles continue as the harsh realities of a still racially segregated South confront Lily and her new friend, Zach. In spite of numerous

challenges that face Lily and the Boatwright sisters, Lily realizes that love and happiness are possible, even if it requires leaving home. (7)

Her only real companion at home has been Rosaleen, the woman who has been caring for Lily since her mother died. And another part of novel excels the issue of, racial violence is brutal and Rosaleen falls on victim to it.

Lily is a victim of her father's abusive parenting, and she runs away in pursuit of her mother's identity and some sense of belonging. Rosaleen, for her own reasons, decides to go with Lily. With only the notation on an old label to guide them, they head for Tiburon. Lily and Rosaleen are taken in by three eccentric beekeeper sisters who set Lily on a course to understanding her family and growing up. Laura Bloxam says:

Despite Lily's many secrets, she is not the only character to avoid telling the truth. The entire Owens family holds secrets that come out during the course of the story. Deborah's accidental killing causes Lily to feel intense guilt and self-loathing, while T. Ray uses anger to deal with his pain. Because of racism, even relationships must be hidden, such as the budding romance between Lily and Zach. *The Secret Life of Bees* is a story about the triumph of love, but also one of pain and tragedy. Nearly every character is affected by a tragedy or violence, whether it is the suicide of May, the accidental killing of Lily's mother, or the racially motivated beatings that Zach and Rosaleen face. (19)

While this is a novel about a young girl coming of age, the book is thick with historical and geographical references. Some of the language reflects the racist tension of the time and setting of the novel. There are also issues of child abuse and

a suicide. Nevertheless, the main characters in this story are delightfully hopeful, unique and heartwarming. It is important to note that this is not just a coming of age story about Lily but a story in which Lily recognizes that some of the thoughts she has about black people are racist thoughts, how she deals with those thoughts and how her perceptions change. Though the novel includes some sensitive language, one of the central themes is stepping outside of one's comfort zone in order to really grow.

At the core of Lily Owen's fourteen-year-old life is the haunting memory of the day she accidentally took the life of her mother while attempting to protect her in a fight with her abusive father. From the early age of four, Lily not only struggles with this entrenched guilt, but she also attempts to cope with a motherless life and a cruel father. She wants answers about why her mother left her, answers to her mother's identity, justice for her mother's death, and the love from a mother figure.

Marcia Ford says:

Sue Monk Kidd's internationally acclaimed novel *The Secret Life of Bees* was born from her experience growing up as an adolescent in the South during the 1960s. I do think race is the wound of my geography, she says. It's the wound of the South and of American life. Despite the power of that experience, it took almost thirty years for Monk Kidd's deeply internalized feelings to surface, when she started to share her memories with her husband and when they began to crystallize into book form. (13)

Protagonist wants to get solace from past event of her life. To escape her lonely life and troubled relationship with her father T-Ray, Lily flees with Rosaleen, her caregiver and friend, to a South Carolina town that holds the secret to her mother's

past. Taken in by the intelligent and independent Boatwright sisters, Lily finds solace in their mesmerizing world of beekeeping.

Trauma refers to person's emotional response to an overwhelming event that disrupts previous ideas of an individual's sense of self and the standards by which one evaluates society. A defining feature of trauma is the transformation of the self ignited by an external, often terrifying experience, which illuminates the process of coming to terms with the dynamics of memory that inform the new perceptions of the self and world. The external event that elicits an extreme response from the protagonist is not necessarily bound to a collective human or natural disaster such as war or tsunamis. The event may include, for example, the intimately personal experience of female sexual violence, war experience, domestic violence, cultural legacy and family betrayal.

The concept of trauma started generating interest in scholarly discourse in the early 1980's when psychologists first began referring to the illness that they were witnessing in Vietnam veterans as post-traumatic stress disorder. By the 1990's, trauma had started to cross disciplinary lines, entering the work of literary and cultural theorists. Blending knowledge from the psychological sciences with the psychoanalytic theory of Jacques Lacan, these scholars started excavating narratives of war, torture, rape, genocide, natural disaster, death, love, addiction, and abandonment, and presenting them as cultural evidence of both individual and collective trauma.

Trauma has sometimes been defined in reference to circumstances outside the normal human experience. Unfortunately, this definition does not always hold true. For some groups of people, trauma can occur frequently and become part of the common human experience. Moreover, in this research paper traumatic experiences are shown

which have been giving unbearable pain in the life of characters. In this regard, traumatic events are those which are thought to involve victimization or the threat of victimization. Events such as witnessing violence, unprovoked physical attack, rape, physical, mental, emotional and sexual abuse, war accidents are those generally considered to be traumatic. So 'Trauma' is used to describe experiences or situations that are emotionally painful and distressing and that overwhelm people's ability to cope, leaving them powerless. Gender plays a significant role in mental health issues. For example, over 70 per cent of people diagnosed with borderline personality disorder (BPD) are women. Those diagnosed as "borderlines" have been stigmatized as being difficult to work with and treatment-resistant.

The most important subject of debate concerns the relation of trauma to memory and came about as a result of a number of legal cases in the 1980s involving recovered memory of sexual abuse. There are two very hostile camps and both of them are linked in interesting ways to Freud. Members of the first camp, which includes clinicians such as Judith Herman as well as researchers, among them Bessel van der Kolk, believe firmly in the theory of dissociation, which is related to the concept of repressed memory, or traumatic amnesia. According to this view, the more horrific and prolonged the trauma, the more the subject has a tendency to dissociate and therefore have no conscious memory of the traumatic event. Thus, a child or even an adolescent who is subjected to repeated sexual abuse by a family member may very well not remember it until he or she enters into therapy as an adult; at that point, the patient may recover memories in a gradual process, sometimes with the help of hypnosis. Only by finally remembering the repressed trauma can the patient move on to recovery, that is, to "mastery" and healing. Judith Herman writes:

The patient may not have full recall of the traumatic history and may initially deny such a history, even with careful, direct questioning. If the therapist believes the patient is suffering from a traumatic syndrome, she should share this information fully with the patient. Knowledge is power. The traumatized person is often relieved simply to learn the true name of her condition. (23)

The leading theorist of Trauma Jenny Edkins in her *Trauma and Politics of Memory* explores how remembrance of traumatic events such as wars, famines, genocides and terrorism, and questions the assumed role of commemorations as simply reinforcing state and nationhood. Taking examples from the World Wars, Vietnam, the Holocaust, Kosovo and September 11th, Edkins offers a thorough discussion of practices of memory such as memorials, museums, remembrance ceremonies, the diagnosis of post-traumatic stress and the act of bearing witness. She examines the implications of these commemorations in terms of language, political power, sovereignty and nationalism. She argues that some forms of remembering do not ignore the horror of what happened but rather use memory to promote change and to challenge the political systems that produced the violence of wars and genocides in the first place. This wide-ranging study embraces literature, history, politics and international relations, and makes a significant contribution to the study of memory.

Edkins has written a provocative book on how traumatic memory is mobilized through various strategies of recall, particularly memorial emplacement in national narratives of heroism, sacrifice, and redemption. Intense remembering too easily turns to intentional forgetting, however, when such toxic memories cannot be contained in traditional memorial forms. Too often, Edkins observes, these narratives "seem unable to get away from rhetorics of state or nation, and they fail to

escape the racialisation upon which the genocides, enslavements and famines were themselves based" (171). She worries as well that trauma stories, the moral testimony of witnesses (survivors, for example), are virtually incommunicable, though they must be communicated. This communication requires memorial forms and audiences willing to find, in her words, "ways of encircling the real," ways of introducing the jarring reality of, in her words, "trauma time" (15).

In the same line of the discussion of working through the memories of the loss of identity, the next leading figure of traumas theory, Dominick LaCapra focuses on three psychoanalytical topics: the return of the repressed , acting out versus working through; and the dynamics of transference. Among the topics, his discussion focuses on distinguishing between acting out and working through. He distinguishes them in non- binary terms treating them as two additional interacting processes. It seems to posit is that whereas working through is aimed at achieving to a closure of the trauma, acting out means that trauma can be only managed through a constant playing out the traumatic even a recurrent playing out which relieves the burden of trauma:

In works as a homeopathic socialization or ritualizing of the repetition compulsion that attempts to return it against the death drive and to counteract compulsiveness especially the compulsive repetition of traumatic scenes of violence by repartitioning in ways that allow for a measure of critical distance, change, resumption of social life, ethical responsibility; and renewal. (713)

At the same time by taking into consideration the memory work, especially the socially engaged memory work involved in working through one is able to distinguish between past and present and to recognize something as having

happened to one back then is related to but not restoring to victims the dignity denied by their victimizers.

These critics argues the various facets of trauma with different notions, build logics tending towards traumatic figure. They try to evolve the fact that the injury of unspeakable pain is to make speakable through transmitting the event and stories of the witnesses'. The research undergoes with the analysis of trauma theory in specific. Since the major objective of the study is to demonstrate the effect of partition and their resistance over it.

The research is based on the authentic cites. Another authentic and helpful guideline for this research is library based. Guidance from the lecturers and professors is taken as the supportive tool. In addition to it the texts on the notion of gender trauma and testimony are taken as the tools in making the application of the novel from the viewpoint of very testimony .The extracts are taken to prove the hypothesis.

The tentative chapter division and allocation of the time of thesis is as follows. The first chapter provides the bird eye view of the research. The second chapter is the discussion of the methodology of gender trauma as well as testimony and the analysis of the novel from the viewpoint of how memory halts the overall development of the person. The last chapter concludes the research.

II. Gender and Racial Trauma in Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*

This thesis explores the issues of traumatic experience faced by different characters in Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*. Kidd represents characters as psychological deviants in order to study the psychology of main character Lily and some other minor characters, which have experienced different aspects of trauma, such as gender, racial and psychological. The main character Lily is represented as a frustrated character who holds a terrible and guilty secret: She believes she shot and killed her mother. Her vague memory of that day when her parents were arguing and she picked up and shot the gun that her mother had dropped continues to haunt her, and she yearns to know more about her mother. Moreover she is abused and beaten by her cruel father. Thus, Lily Owens lives in a society where women have few rights, have little control over their own lives or bodies and have no choice but to endure the atrocities committed against them. In particular, this project explores the traumatic situation of the female characters that are haunted by the memory and jolting in the painful life course.

Trauma happens due to mental distress when psychological, social or physical breakdown happens in a person's life. It is the situation of emotional pain that that occurred as a wound of past life. The suffering that causes trauma can happen from various sources. Just like that our main character Lily has been the victim of gender violence. The operation of patriarchy by her father limits her just inside the vicinity of her house. For Lily, her house has become the hive of bees, which is narrow and has a small peephole as to move. Her abusive father also injects the guilt that Lily once killed her mother. Lily's mind is preoccupied by the guilt of the matricide which she committed without her knowledge. This leads Lily being an

unknown perpetrator within her. The implication of horrendous patriotism and the exploitation of gender role at her house creates trauma in poor Lily.

The Secret Life of Bees presents the development and maturation of one central character, Lily Owens. Lily's voice makes up the central consciousness of the novel. She narrates her past dark story and presents frustrated situation of her life. Developing an understanding of Lily is central to understanding *The Secret Life of Bees* because Lily's story is the story of the novel that is told by her and about her. Thus, Lily is both the protagonist and the narrator, the focus of the novel and the one who does the focusing. For these reasons, reader must be conscious of how Lily performs in her own account and of what she chooses to reveal about herself. In this way, this research attempts to unearth the traumatic experience of Lily and other characters through the text. It aims to unfold the impact of external environment in the human psychology mainly in traumatic form, the reflection of such traumatic psychology through memory in the behavior of humankind and either they pursue inevitable seeking of identity' or the way out for an escape as a result. This research project covers the areas of internal and external pressure or personal past event and racial tension in the characters. In this regard, Steven Wallace views:

Sue Monk Kidd's novel *The Secret Life of Bees* is a strange story of young- age, of the ability of love to transform our lives, and the often unappreciated longing for the human anxiety. Addressing the wounds of loss, betrayal, and the scarcity of love, Kidd demonstrates the power of women coming together to heal those wounds, to mother each other and themselves, and to create a sanctuary of true family and home. (3)

Lily is the main protagonist, and narrator of her story. She is a fourteen-year-old white teenager growing up in Sylvan, South Carolina. She narrates the relations and events of her past life that sometimes makes her painful and traumatic.

Psychological trauma focuses in psychological pangs and pains. Person having psychological trauma suffers mental tortures and pains caused by past events deposited in one's memory. So, memory becomes the repository bin to make one psychologically ill and ruptured. Lily too suffers psychologically in the present time. She remembers even her unwillingness. She used to think such works are all daft. She would feel better if she has not been involved in the war.

When Lily first appears, she is beaten down, abused, and misused by her brutal father. Her father is abusive and does not believe that Lily has been living in the walls of her bedroom. T. Ray is Lily's father, a bitter, cruel man who takes his anger out on Lily. The source of that anger is Deborah's abandonment. From August, Lily learns that T. Ray was once deeply in love with Lily's mother, but they were totally unsuited for each other in social background and personality. When Deborah became pregnant with Lily, they married to give her a name and a home. But Deborah's increasing unhappiness led to a nervous breakdown, causing her to leave her husband. This powerful blow to his pride caused T. Ray to take all his rage out on his daughter, ignoring her at times and abusing her for senseless reasons. Although he is present only at the beginning and the end of the novel, his influence is felt as a dark cloud looming over Lily's life. In the end, when Lily confronts him, she realizes that his pent-up bitterness is not really directed at her, but at the mother who left them both. T. Ray is given some sense of redemption in Lily's eyes when his final words are that she did not mean to kill her mother. The roughness leaves his voice, and he departs in his truck slowly. So, Lily is living under horrible conditions,

with a father who does not love her and takes every opportunity to punish her. In fact, he punishes her so viciously that the reader wonders why he is so cruel. Lily does this to show the sense of guilt of matricide. She murdered her own mother. Though she didn't do it intentionally, her father regularly inflicts pain of the past. He talks negative about her mother and is able to prove her betrayer. Likewise she was tortured since the childhood.

Thus, T. Ray is what Lily calls her father "because 'Daddy' never fit him" (2). Still bitter about his wife's untimely death, T. Ray quite literally detests his daughter and avoids her by working sun up to sun down in the peach orchard. He refuses to buy her rollers to fix her hair; he refuses to take her to football games or any social function, and he is unconcerned that she makes her own clothes and refuses to allow her to wear more fashionable clothes. When she requests a silver charm bracelet for her fourteenth birthday silence is his answer. T. Ray is an emotionally absent father but consistently verbally abusive in all of their interactions. He responds to questions she asks about her mother with anger and violence, once smashing a jar of blackberry preserves into the cabinet, leaving blue stains (13).

Lily has a horrific memory that haunts her. Deborah, her mother, died on December 3, 1954, after a heated argument with T. Ray. Lily was only four, but she remembers her mother hurriedly packing a suitcase. Then T. Ray arrived and argued with Deborah, who reached up on the closet shelf for a gun. T. Ray knocked it out of her hand and it fell on the floor near Lily. Lily picked it up, and she still remembers an explosion. She had accidentally killed her mother. "She was all I wanted. And I took her away." (?)

Lily often thinks of her last memory of her mother, Deborah, who died when Lily was a small child. At the core of Lily Owen's fourteen-year-old life is the haunting memory of the day she accidentally took the life of her mother while attempting to protect her in a fight with her abusive father. From the early age of four, Lily not only struggles with this entrenched guilt, but she also attempts to cope with a motherless life and a cruel father. She wants answers about why her mother left her, answers to her mother's identity, justice for her mother's death, and the love from a mother figure. But in order to find these answers, she must leave the abusive environment of her father's home in search of a safe haven. According to Jonny Larson:

The Secret Life of Bess is the story of fourteen year old Lily Owens, who has been raised by her abusive T. Ray, and their black servant, Rosaleen Daise. Lily's father blames her for the death of her mother, who was killed when Lily was only four years old. Eventually, Lily and Rosaleen run away from T. Ray and the police, who have beaten Rosaleen for trying to vote. (28)

It is the horrible and terrible accident of Lily's life in which unforgettable and painful events always give psychological torture to her. She is always haunted by this past accident. She wakes up screaming every night and she always dreams the same thing: she is in the middle of a lake in a fierce storm and a man and a woman were forcing her head under the icy waters, drowning her. She awakens each time panicky, gasping for breath, soaked with perspiration. She has no idea who she is and she has no fixed memory of the past.

Lily's yearning for her real mother and her guilt about killing her are themes that will also appear throughout the novel. These two situations add to her loneliness

and sense of being an outsider. Lily is already different from other teenagers at her school because she has only her father, and her loneliness is heightened when she is excluded from events like charm school because she is motherless. Lily particularly misses her mother when it comes to maturity issues such as picking out a training bra or starting her periods. Twice, the story of her mother's death is repeated, both through Lily's memory and T. Ray's dubious explanation. Lily even suggests that her own death will allow her to ask for her mother's forgiveness. In this world, however, she has no one to help her with teenage dresses or explain the bits of wisdom that are passed from mother to daughter. As Lily knows so little about her mother, she makes up romantic stories about her and compares her own photo with that of her beautiful mother. She dreams of what her mother would have been like and the motherly things she would have done, like brushing Lily's hair. She even dreams sometimes that Rosaleen is her mother.

Lily is encouraged by some and discouraged by others. Because Lily's verbal aptitude score is high, her teacher, Mrs. Henry, encourages Lily, telling her she can be a college professor or a writer. Prior to this support, Lily thought she might possibly make it as far as beauty school. Now she has hope, and Mrs. Henry loans her books to read and talks about her getting a scholarship. A discourager, T. Ray makes Lily sell peaches at his stand along the highway but he won't allow her to take a reading book because he thinks education and college are a waste of time for girls. After she leaves the peach stand one day, Lily returns home and sees Rosaleen watching President Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act on television. Before Lily starts school, her father talks to her about her mother's death. When Lily tries to explain that she remembers that day, T. Ray gets angry. AghoghoMajda writes:

In *Secret Life of Bees*, since Lily is accustomed to the stinging of her father's verbal and physical abuse and her mother's abandonment, she takes great pride what August considers her a "true bee keeper" once she has been stung by bee. The esteem-builder of becoming a skilled bee keeper proves foundational in Lily's growth process. (18)

A series of events cause Lily to start thinking about leaving home. July 4 is Lily's birthday, and she wants a charm bracelet like the other girls. T. Ray utterly ignores this request. Unhappy, that night she goes out and sleeps in the trees with the tin box of her mother's things. She unbuttons her blouse to allow "night to settle on my skin." (21)The next morning, T. Ray searches for her and when he sees her hastily buttoning her blouse, he believes she is meeting a boy. He calls her a slut and punishes her in the usual way. She has to kneel down on uncooked grits, which feel like powdered glass. The next morning, her knees are swollen with red welts and bruises, but she has the tin box safely hidden under her mattress. When Rosaleen arrives, she is appalled at Lily's punishment. T. Ray says Lily will follow his orders as long as she lives in his house, and Lily thinks for the first time about living somewhere else.

Problem is part of human life. People have assumed that life is being identical with the problem itself. Then people will do everything to find the perfect solution for their problems. Sometimes multiple personality disorder may occur when people face a complicated situation. Then, this condition makes people do something that are not suitable with the norm in society. As a psychological study, psychoanalysis is often used to analyze some literature, such as fiction.

The novel opens with Lily lying on her bed, waiting for the bees to arrive. The bees live in the walls, and at night they fly around her room. Lily says that the

bees' freedom almost breaks her heart. This is our first clue that Lily might be less than happy herself, and that she might feel less free than the bees. She says, "The way those bees flew, not even looking for a flower, just flying for the feel of the wind, split my heart down its seam" (22). There is also an initial mention of religion in this opening section. Lily says that she feels the bees were set to her; the bees' arrival signifies the beginning of a momentous change in Lily's life.

Bees suggest rebirth, exploration, get rid from external and internal pressures, and personal growth. They guide Lily, accompany her and drive her forward. For every important action Lily takes in the novel, bees and their products play a role: from realizing she is in love with Zach to realizing she loves August. Lily even finds the 'Secret Life of Bees' similar to her own life. Their industrious care for their mother, their continuous ability to keep going in work, and their ability to survive inspire Lily. Finally, their reliance on an all-female community resembles her own reliance, and the bees' community helps Lily to understand the power of the human community. For this reason, bees are the central motif of *The Secret Life of Bees*. Honey too has healing powers; it serves as the elixir of physical, emotional and spiritual healing for all of the characters in *Bees*. Similarly, August teaches Lily there is a complicated life inside a hive that we do not have any idea of. *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd has unique characteristics especially in its theme that includes the past memories, family betrayal and racial tension in characters. It covers the plot, a brief analysis of the main character, Lily's growth throughout the book. The novel is set in 1964, during the civil rights movement, in South Carolina that makes us really think about the color of our skin. *The Secret Life of Bees* also has a unique motif of bees. Bees serve as Lily's unspoken guides throughout the novel. In the beginning, bees come to Lily's room to relay the message that she should head

out on her own and leave T. Ray's house. Lily follows the trail of the honey label to Tiburon where she meets the three beekeeping sisters and lives together with them. Lily even finds the "secret life of bees" similar to her own life. Their industrious care for their mother, their continuous ability to keep going in work and their ability to survive inspire Lily. Finally, their reliance on a female community resembles Lily's reliance, and the bees' community helps Lily understand the power of the human community. For these reasons, bees are the central motif of *The Secret Life of Bees*. The novel also contains some symbolism such as "bees" symbolize of rebirth, exploration.

In another symbolism is "beehives" serve as symbolic parallel to the community August has created in the pink house. Bees live, work, and produce honey in beehives. As in August's community, female bees dominate the beehive and the queen bee rules over everything. The queen of bees is the mother of every single other bee. And according to August, the Virgin Mary is the mother of all the women whom she calls the Daughters of Mary. The beehive also has a symbolic function in *The Secret Life of Bees* because when Lily learns about August's community, she also learns about the mechanics of the beehive and becomes familiar with August's community. She remarks:

You know, some things don't matter that much, Lily. Like the color of a house. How big is that in the overall scheme of life? But lifting a personal's heart ... now, that matters. The whole problem with people is, they don't know what matters and what doesn't. Most people don't have any ideas about all the complicated life going on inside a hive. Bee has a secret life we don't know anything about.

(57)

As she explains the nature of spirituality as it relates to bee hives, August has taught Lily all about the communities bees keep inside their hives. Amongst other things, Lily has learned of the importance of the female power structure in the bee community: how the queen bee is doted on by a whole team of composition, how she lays the eggs that become every single other bee in the hive, and how this queen bee is the mother of thousands. For Lily, who has lost her mother, this sounds incredibly wonderful. She relates it almost immediately to stories from the Bible, and Lily begins to think of the bees as part God and part Mary, when August also explains as a spiritual essence that is present everywhere, in everything. Reoccurring motifs are introduced. The first of these is the idea that the lives of bees parallel human lives. Kidd begins this connection with the short epigram about bees. Later in the chapter, when Lily imprisons the bees, they fight to get free, just like Lily is imprisoned in a loveless home. But when she opens the jar, the bees are so desensitized they do not fly away. They are battered and exhausted from trying to survive. This, too, represents Lily, who does not think to leave her abusive parent until he punishes her so deeply that she begins to think of freedom. When Lily is excited by the bees swarming in her room one night, wakes him to show him this phenomenon, he angrily says “Goddamn it, Lily, this isn’t funny” when he sees no bees and threatens physical punishment (4). Unfortunately, she had grown accustomed to this sort of verbal abuse. Two nights before her fourteenth birthday, she is in the peach orchard holding close to her chest some precious keepsakes of her mother’s in order to feel closer to her when T. Ray finds her in the middle of the night buttoning up her shirt. Believing her to have been with a boy, his menacing anger erupts as he tells her “you act no better than a slut” (24). This time, he follows through with physical punishment by making Lily kneel on Martha White grits.

Though she had been accustomed to this brutality since she was six, Lily never really grows used to the “powdered-glass feeling” beneath her skin or the “swollen red welts” and “pinprick bruises that would grow into a blue stubble” caused by the grit torture (24). The next morning, waking up a bit late, Lily is finally convinced that any love T. Ray has for her is gone when he takes her slice of buttered bread, throws it in the dog’s bowl, and insults her about starting work late.

Lily was the targeted victim of gender and patriarchal exploitation that leads her to traumatic condition. As Kali Tal in *Worlds of Hurt* says;

“In a situation of ongoing oppression or involving the risk of traumatic violence, many members of targeted group will be victimized (some repeatedly), while other members will escape physical harm. In such circumstances, the category of trauma “survivor” is problematic, since every traumatized member of an oppressed community is aware of the potential for repeated victimization.” (9)

Lily was repeatedly victimized by her father. Lily was always aware of the repeated torture she had to face. Sue Monk Kidd’s *The Secret Life of Bees* deals with issue of trauma. In this novel Kidd shows the situation of women in psychological torture form different types of circumstances and repeatedly. Kidd’s fiction mostly portrays the physical and psychological violence in relation to women. This novel portrays the realistic pictures of traumatic life. The protagonist of the novel Lily has no freedom and mental solace in her family so she decides to create her own identity as a powerful woman. By fourteen, Lily’s motherless existence led to several unpleasant ramifications in the matter of her appearance. Her clothes, often made in home economics class are usually nothing more than “cotton print shirtwaists with

crooked zippers” and skirts that were very long like the “Pentecostal girls” wore (8). Her curly black hair was a “nest of cowlicks,” and she worried about not having “much of a chin” (9). Despite her lovely eyes and developing breasts, Lily confesses that even the hard up boys gives her no attention, especially when she was forced to wear “long britches under her Pentecostal dresses” during the winter months (9). Her appearance causes her such anxiety that Lily takes to “picking scabs off her body” and chewing the flesh around her fingernails until her literally becomes a “bleeding wreck” (9). She is so consumed with how she looks and whether she is behaving appropriately that she often feels like she is “impersonating a girl” instead of actually being one (9). Rachel Karenga writes:

Kidd ties the all the strayed strands of past to present for Lily in the home of three blacks bee keepers- May, June and August- who have their own black Madonna whom they declare is “blessed among women”. Throughout the novel, Kidd scrupulously ties all her symbols, most important those of the Lily and bees to this black icon. Thus, Lily’s search for an archetypal mother expands from a quest for psychological identity to a quest for a religion that offers some reflection of her. (115)

After a traumatic experience, a person may re-experience the trauma mentally and physically, hence avoiding trauma reminders, also called triggers, as this can be uncomfortable, changeable and even painful. This can be seen in Cathy Caruth perception as explained by Jeffery C. Alexander; “Caruth focuses on the complex permutations that unconscious emotion impose on traumatic reactions.” (6) Here the substitution of traumas can be changeable, unbearable and often painful. They may turn to psychoactive substances including alcohol to try to

escape the feelings. Re-experiencing symptoms are a sign that the body and mind are actively struggling to cope with the traumatic experience. Triggers and cues act as reminders of the trauma, and can cause anxiety and other associated emotions. Often the person can be completely unaware of what these triggers are. In many cases this may lead a person suffering from traumatic disorders to engage in disruptive or self-destructive coping mechanisms, often without being fully aware of the nature or causes of their own actions. Panic attacks are an example of a psychosomatic response to such emotional triggers.

This research gives emphasis on Kidd's best novel *The Secret Life of Bees* in which we find gender and racial issues of trauma. By scrutinizing the text, this study gets various problems of the main character and minor, that's why it takes issues of traumatic experience of Lily and female characters. The protagonist of the novel, Lilly Owens has enjoyable day in her family. Her father T.Ray has a great authority in decision making and social, cultural and political aspects. T. Ray teaches Lily to be subordinated in front of the social norms maintained by males. Lily feels herself being lost in her family and society. So, she is in the situation of psychological torture.

The Secret Life of Bees, Lily Owens is subjected to the harsh treatment of her father T. Ray, who holds Lily accountable for his miserable state because she inadvertently killed her mother and his wife, Deborah. Lily experiences limited abuse from her father, for the majority of T.Ray's abuse is verbal and psychological. T. Ray does not have an addiction to alcohol like Pap, so he does not go off on the physical and vocal tirades that Pap does. T. Ray has a deep emotional pain that manifests itself in resentment towards Lily. T. Ray's resentment builds as he works in the peach orchards all day in the summer. With no mother and no friends except

her nanny Rosaleen, Lily deeply longs for a relationship with T. Ray, but she is always disappointed when he returns home and seemingly pretends she does not exist. T. Ray refuses to buy Lily any products to help maintain her appearance, including hair rollers and new clothes, and he also refuses to take her anywhere that she may interact socially with kids her own age. T. Ray, like Pap, discourages Lily's educational advancement by prohibiting her reading all day while she works in the peach stand. When she wakes him one night to show him the bees flying in her bedroom, and they disappear by the time he arrives, he curses her vigorously. Any time Lily questions T. Ray about her mother, he curses her violently. Otherwise, T. Ray is absent emotionally, ignoring birthday requests and ordering the same four things for Lily every year for Christmas: sweater, socks, pajamas, and sack of oranges. Lily arranges these four items in a "vertical line, a square, a diagonal line, any kind of configuration to help her feel like they are a picture of love," but she knows T. Ray's only tenderness is for his bird dog, Snout (274). Like Huck, when Lily finally decides to leave home, it is because she fears T. Ray will severely beat her physically for accompanying Rosaleen to town and ending up in jail with her; Lily also grows weary of T. Ray's verbal and psychological abuse.

In addition to T. Ray's verbal and physical abuse, he also relishes in subjecting Lily to psychological abuse when he refuses to let her read while she works alone all day in the peach stand. Afraid it would "stir up ideas of college . . . a waste of money" for females, even though she had scored "the highest number a human being can get on their verbal aptitude test," T. Ray makes sure Lily has a healthy fear of him (15). Ironically, T. Ray's "only kindness was for Snout, his bird dog, who slept in his bed and got her stomach scratched anytime she rolled onto her wiry back," claims Lily, who had also seen T. Ray not even bat an eye when the

dog had peed on his boots (3). Treating his dog with much greater affection than his own daughter, T. Ray continually devalues Lily, making her feel unloved:

‘Half kills’ her once when she sneaks a copy of *Lost Horizon* to the peach stand under her shirt, and a neighbor bragged on her at church for reading, exposing her guilt. I never would have done it, except T. Ray said the man who beat Rosaleen was the meanest-hater of colored people anywhere, and it would be just like him to come back and kill her. I couldn’t leave her in there. (15)

The first chapter introduces the idea of race tension which has created the tension to the characters. The three town racists that insult and then attack and beat Rosaleen for pouring her snuff juice on their shoes reveal the superiority and outright hatred some white Southerners felt for blacks during this time. Mr. Avery Gaston, the policeman that unjustly arrests Rosaleen for “assault, theft, and disturbing the peace,” chooses to not only let the white racists go free with no punishment, he also allows them to enter the jail and beat Rosaleen in her cell, gashing her head wide open (33). This violent racial injustice and discrimination exists also in Tiburon, South Carolina, outside of the matriarchal pink house. Zach is unjustly arrested when one of his friends throws a glass bottle at a white man. Eddie Hazelwurst, the policeman who interviews Lily after May’s suicide, tells her “it’s not natural” to be living in a house with black women and Lily should not be “lowering herself” (198). From this patriarchal structure, Lily learns that religious hypocrisy is acceptable to someone of another race, and that racial discrimination and violence are acceptable and encouraged social standards in the South

The fact that Lily is a white girl living with black women, a runaway, and a criminal of sorts, means her life with August must remain a secret just like the secret

life of the bees that goes inside the hive. In this way, the motherhood Lily believes May offers her is parallels to the support and love she gets from August and her community of women, a support that is secret to world but that nourishes her and keeps her alive. The secret life that bees have is similar to the secret life of Lily Owens. Lily learns about the bees secrets from August, while we learn about Lily's secrets from her first person narration. Just as the bees produce the sweet honey that August is so attached to, Lily creates a bitter sweet coming - of - age story about a young girl who finds strength, love and family in unlikely circumstances:

I decided against marrying altogether. There were enough restrictions in my life without someone. Expecting one to wait on him hand and foot, Not that I'm against marrying Lily, I'm just against how it's set up. Nobody should go through life without falling in love. I just loved my freedom more. I think the statue was the reason Mother became a Catholic, so she could kneel down before her and not feel like she was doing anything peculiar. (57)

The strong prejudice also appears when Lily is anxious about Rosaleen's condition if T. Ray said to the men who beat Rosaleen to kill her. It shows that there are many the Whites' bad action such as violence and hostilities faced by the African-Americans because the Whites state their mind that the African-Americans are inferior race. It is described by the quotations below:

The White people also think that they are the dominant group and consider the Afro-Americans as the minor group who do not have power and are different from the Whites because their skin's color and body's size. That is the reason why the three men who are met by Lily and Rosaleen have negative thinking to Rosaleen, furthermore, they think that Rosaleen is like alien. The African-Americans' physic

characteristics make the Whites always think that they are only minority and slave. The Whites feel free to exploit them and judge them as stupid, poor, lowest group and crime. The Whites do not believe that they are smart people and have abilities to create something. So, Afro Americans cannot have what the Whites people have. This condition appears when the three White men see Rosaleen with her.

As a social ideology, racism not only means the organizing principle of a society that is structured on the basis of racial ancestry but also brings a certain belief that one race occupies a position superior to others. As it has been mentioned in Encyclopedia Britannica, Racism is theory or idea that is a causal link between inherited physical traits and certain traits of personality, intellect, or culture and combined with it, the notion that some races are inherently superior to others (360). It is an ideology of superiority which provides a rationalization for oppression. Especially in the context of the reconstructive creation of collective identities such as the African-American we-group, the deliberate re-working of the past and the conscious identification with it are conditioning circumstances of the present. As Ron Eyerman points out:

It is important to keep in mind that the notion 'African American' is not itself a natural category, but an sic historically formed collective identity which first of all required articulation and then acceptance on the part of those it was meant to incorporate. A major condition for the formation of African-American collective identity was the deliberate processing and “elaborative encoding. (34)

The collective cultural knowledge preserved in cultural memory is thereby not preexistent, but its appropriation and interpretation is rather influenced by a society's needs at a specific moment in time. The formation of cultural memory is

not based on research of historical facts, but rather on an intellectual process of constant construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction of the past in the present

According to Horton, racism historically has carried one of two related meanings: (1) a belief in inherited race differences that explain the differences in racial behavior, and (2) support of segregation, discrimination, or unequal treatment of the races, are often accompanied by strong prejudices and intense hostilities. Both meanings imply on one conclusive condition that in racist society there is at least a group of dominance and another group of minority

Prejudice is a negative attitude toward a group of people who have some characteristic in common that is not shared by all people. Gordon Allport defines prejudice as “an antipathy based upon a faulty and inflexible generalization” (9). As a result, prejudice, according to Allport, covers attitudes of aversion and hostility toward the members of a group simply because they belong to it and so are presumed to have the objectionable qualities that are ascribed to it.

For the reason that Sue Monk Kidd is one of white writers who tried to oppose of the racism in America that happened in her childhood life in 1964 and her objection of racism was shown in her first novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*. The researcher tries to give more explanation about the phenomena of racism in South Carolina in 1964; the forms of racism, the struggles of African - Americans against White's racism, and how is White's racism faced by African- Americans in Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees* reveal the real society of South Carolina in 1964. Finally, the researcher decides to conduct a study on “White's racism faced by African-Americans depicted in Sue Monk Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*”. Fourteen-year-old Lily gets maturity emotionally and spiritually and is on course toward "self-actualization". By the story's end, Lily has become an official member of the

daughters of Mary. She visits black Mary every day to reminded of the 'muscle of love' and inner strength she represents. And she constantly reminds herself of the day T. Ray left and when she turned around to see them: "All these mother more mothers than any eight girls off the street" (118). For a fourteen-year-old high school student who has learned to forgive her imperfect parents, ignores the expectations of her white majority, and embraces the love of a host of incredible black women, Lily Owens is remarkably self-actualized.

There are many attitudes, thoughts, sense or feelings that show prejudice exactly at Blacks people. This condition is shown when Rosaleen goes to the Sylvan with Lily and they meet three men in the Esso station who hate Afro-Americans. Then, one of those men underestimates Rosaleen by calling her 'Nigger' because she was an Afro American. The three White men think that a Negro is a strange and fool person. They believe that Negroes cannot walk and work together with the Whites. So, they feel that it is forbidden for the Whites to have close relationship with Afro-Americans and they do hate Afro-Americans. It makes them call Afro-Americans with silly name and keep away from Americans. Besides that, Rosaleen is also called 'colored woman' by the three racist men and it describes the whites unfair attitude to the Afro-Americans. This event also happens when all whites in Tiburon are surprise because a white actor, Jack Palance brings his African-American woman to the theatre. This condition is explained by the following quotations:

He looked up and saw us, Rosaleen fanning and shuffling, swaying side to side. 'Well, look what we got coming here' he called out. 'Where're you going, Nigger? Your colored woman isn't here,' he said, looking at me. You won't believe what people downtown are

saying.’ He said ‘They’re saying Jack Palance is coming to Tiburon this weekend and bringing a colored woman with him. They’re saying Jack Palance is coming to Tiburon this weekend and bringing a colored woman with him. (38)

After Jack Palance brings his woman to a theatre in Tiburon, there are many white men try to oppose Jack Palance’s because he brings an Afro American woman into the theatre and they sit together on the whites’ chair. It means that the Whites still have strong prejudice to the African-Americans. As the texts narrates: The man holding the shovel handle walked right up to the truck bumper and stared at the boys with that same half smile, half sneer ‘I had seen on T. Ray’s face a thousand times, the sort of look conjured from power without benefit of love, and he yelled, what did you say, boy’(222) In the novel the main character, Lily Owens is forbid by a White policeman, Eddie Hazelwurst to live together with the Afro-Americans women because the policeman thinks that it is danger for Lily if she lives with the Afro Americans women, August community and will be better if Lily go out from August community to live with her aunt in Virginia or other Whites. The same situation also happens when T. ray is surprise after he finds Lily lives together with the Afro-Americans. So, it is clear that there are many the Whites have strong prejudice that the Whites cannot live together with the Afro-Americans because the Afro-Americans are different race with the Whites. This condition is described by the following quotations: He drew up even taller. “Well, what I don’t understand is, if you’re going to live with your aunt in Virginia, what are you doing here?” Here is the translation, “I am completely confused what a White girl like you is doing staying in a colored house” (245).

Racism is a fact in South Carolina, and although adults like T. Ray and Rosaleen know how dangerous it is, Lily doesn't know, and that danger will become part of her education. When T. Ray tells her that Rosaleen will probably die at the hands of racists, Lily takes no time to even question saving her. Later, although the television news tells Lily facts and shows her pictures, the incident with Zach in town is a stronger education. Lily realizes that the white world does not think she should live with the Boatrights and certainly would frown on any liaison with Zach. However, Zach encourages her to imagine a color-free world in order to make it happen. The lessons her father taught her about race are slowly proven wrong, and one notion after another falls. When Lily realizes June is prejudiced against her because of her whiteness, Lily is shocked and recognizes how wrong June is to judge her without knowing her. Once again, Lily reflects on this idea and takes it in.

Sue Monk Kidd emphasizes on the complicated situation of characters; physical and mental torture in relationship and critical situation of human life and unfavorable circumstances. This research has tried to prove some characters' unusual life style. Past unforgettable accidents and events are the causes and effects of trauma where all characters are frustrated in their life. But some characters are able to get rid of psychological tortures, some not, and some have happy to give torture to other, some persuade to live easily. This thesis focuses on exploring the physical, psychological torture of characters and the ramification from traumatic experience under the influences of external forces (society) and internal pressures (family members). The fiction focuses on fragile who embark upon journeys of self discovery after dissociating themselves from problematic situation. During the course of her narratives, her characters learn about themselves and uncover secrets

form the pasts of their loved ones while developing a newfound sense of psychological tortures.

Sue Monk Kidd's internationally acclaimed novel *The Secret Life of Bees* was born from her experience growing up as an adolescent in the South during the 1960s. "I do think race is the wound of my geography," she says. "It's the wound of the South and of American life," (32). Despite the power of that experience, it took almost 30 years for Monk Kidd's deeply internalized feelings to surface, when she started to share her memories with her husband and when they began to crystallize into book form. Monk Kidd grew up in a large country house in Sylvester, Georgia, where bees inhabited a wall in the guesthouse. "I remember my mother cleaning up puddles of honey that had seeped out, and the unearthly sound of bee hum vibrating through the house," the writer has noted. The bees never left and even years later, when Monk Kidd's husband visited her childhood home, he woke to find the bees flying around his room. That was when his wife "began imagining a young girl lying in bed while bees poured through cracks in her bedroom walls." Unable to shake that image, she still had to answer two profound questions: "Who is this girl?" and "What is the desire of her heart?" Answering them led to the creation of Lily Melissa Owens, the girl who yearns for her mother, and who became central to Monk Kidd's story. At first, however, *Bees* was very much a story, not a novel. It was only after writing the short story in 1993, and after it drew a rapturous response when read aloud at a New York literary event, that Monk Kidd thought of turning it into a novel. During years of research and preparation that took her through collage making and more contemplative periods, the author turned her attention to matters of race and spirituality. Ancient statues and "archetypal feminine images" of the Virgin Mary became her focus and she set out to learn more about the origins and

significance of the Black Madonna, in particular, a journey that took her far from the South and all the way to Europe. There she found that images of the Black Madonna were symbols of defiance among oppressed women. She knew now that the Black Madonna must be included in the novel

The Secret Life of Bees allows us into a world apart in a novel whose strong, irresistible voice catches us up and does not let go. It is a mesmerizing novel about women with extraordinary gifts coping with loss and finding forgiveness. In South Carolina, a place and time of seething racial divides, violence explodes one summer afternoon, and Rosaleen is arrested and beaten. Lily is desperate; not only to save Rosaleen, but to flee from a life she can no longer endure. Calling upon her colorful wits and youthful daring, she breaks Rosaleen out of jail and the two escapes, into what quickly becomes Lily's quest for the truth about her mother's life.

Isolated on a South Carolina peach farm with a neglectful and harsh father, fourteen-year-old Lily Owens has spent much of her life longing for her mother, Deborah, who died amid mysterious circumstances when Lily was four years old. To make matters worse, her father, T. Ray, tells Lily that she accidentally killed her mother. Captured by the voice of this Southern adolescent, one becomes enveloped in the hot South Carolina summer and one of most tumultuous times the country has ever seen. A story of mothers lost and found, love, conviction, and forgiveness, *The Secret Life of Bees* boldly explores life's wounds and reveals the deeper meaning of home and the redemptive simplicity of "choosing what matters."⁽⁴²⁾

Lily is raised by Rosaleen, her proud and outspoken African-American nanny. When Rosaleen attempts to exercise her newly won right to vote, she is attacked by the

three worst racists in town and is thrown into jail. Lily is determined to save Rosaleen and finally escape her own father as well. Seizing the moment, she springs Rosaleen from jail, and the two set out across South Carolina in search of a new life. In the end, though she cannot find the mother she lost, Lily discovers and comes to terms with her mother's past, finds a hive of new mothers, and falls in love with the great universal mother. *The Secret Life of Bees* is the story of Lily Owens, a girl who has shaped her life around one devastating memory—the afternoon her mother was killed, when Lily was four. Besides her harsh and unyielding father, Lily's only real companion is Rosaleen, a tender, but fierce-hearted black woman who cooks, cleans and acts as her "stand-in mother."

Unfortunately, once the jailor allows these three racists to beat Rosaleen further in jail gashing her head open the roles for Lily and her reverse. Incensed by her father, who not only calls her a "little bitch" for her behavior, but who also tells Lily that her "sorry mother ran off and left her," Lily decides she and Rosaleen must flee Sylvan (39). Now the protector, Lily springs Rosaleen free from the hospital in an attempt to avoid further abuse, and they hitch a ride with a kind farmer to Tiburon, South Carolina, a place she had found written on the back of one of her mother's prized keepsakes, a black Madonna picture. Lily wants to protect Rosaleen from these racists, one of whom T.Ray believes is actually crazy enough to try to kill her. But Rosaleen realizes that a black woman with a stitched head, traveling with a young white girl looks very suspicious, and out of fear for their safety, she questions Lily's motives. Rosaleen insists that the real reason they left Sylvan was so Lily could escape her abusive, lying father. Lily, who had just risked her life to rescue Rosaleen, does not appreciate being called self-centered and tells Rosaleen that she can "find her own way from now on" (54). Lily's childlike response of

storming off across the river after Rosaleen's insult contrasts the role of protector she had just assumed. And yet, in her willingness to stand up to Rosaleen, she reveals a transformation from a reticent, submissive teen to one willing to verbalize her opinion and defend her choice.

It is mostly written in narrative technique it tells the story of a motherless fourteen year old, raised by cruel father, who desperately searches for clues to unlock her mother's past, knowledge that she believes will help create her own identity. The novel begins with Lily's journey in search of her mother's past. Lily holds a terrible and guilty secret: she believes she shot and killed her mother, Deborah, when Lily was four years old. Her vague memory of that day continues to haunt her, and she yearns to know more about her mother.

Thus, Lily has suffered by external and internal anxiety which has created the psychological trauma in present life. Lily has always been beaten down and abused by her father, but witnessing Rosaleen's courage gives Lily courage too. Her father physically beats her and punishes her atrociously, and Lily has no choice but to take it. But after she witness Rosaleen's nerve in the face of beating and imprisonment Lily escape to Tiburon. Defying her father and leaving home is something she has never considered. She uses her intelligence a brain that her father thought was wastes to educate-to create a false past, learn a new set of skills, and reflect on the people and event she seen around her.

III. Narrativization of Gender and Racial Trauma

This research locates that the physical, psychological torture of characters and the ramification from traumatic experience under the influences of external forces (society) and internal pressures (father). Kidd presents the gender and racial trauma in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees* through the story of characters that are victimized from many accidents. Lily is the protagonist, and narrator of her story. She is a fourteen-year-old white teenager growing up in Sylvan, South Carolina. When Lily first appears, she is beaten down, abused and misused by her brutal father. He runs a peach farm where Lily has always lived, and neither he nor Lily ever forget that at age four, Lily killed her mother while witnessing an argument between her parents. Lily has different qualities but she discovers only after she leaves home and goes on the run with her nanny, Rosaleen. Through her interactions with other people, Lily gains strength in her independence, understanding of prejudice, and loving connections in her life. Her sense of humor helps her survive and she comes to an understanding her confidence, ability to forgive, and her growth that takes her far beyond her father's lack of humanity.

Throughout her story, Lily feels a deep sense of longing for her mother and a need to connect with other human beings. She reflects on the mother she allegedly killed and compares herself to her unknown mother, always coming up short. She imagines her mother romantically, doing things ideal mothers do, like brushing Lily's hair. Lily goes to Tilburon in search of her mother, not knowing whether her mother had really been there. After August presents Lily with her mother's items, she finds the photo of her mother feeding her as a child, and all the longing and sadness of her life is contained in her reaction. Through August and Zach, Lily begins to find loving connections to humans who treat her like she is a human being.

The teacher who first encouraged her began that connection, and Rosaleen followed it up. Now the Boatright home and sisters show her what it is to be part of a community who loves her. Zach also believes in her, giving her a journal for writing her thoughts. This group of people gives her the courage to stand up to her father.

Finally, Lily was able to figure out the exact image and condition of her mother. Lily's image for her mother was unrealistic before which was only for the existence of a mother in child's mind. Deborah, her mother eventually turned out to be a different one. As mother image and condition is the center force to drive Lily go traumatic, she had to make bold decisions of leaving her father's home and join the rituals of other ladies. August helped to dissolve the fact about her mother and other ladies loved her too. This company of women was able to derive confidence within Lily associating with life of bees. So Lily was able to forget her mother's past and was able to cope up with traumatic conditions thinking her mother has a better life somewhere.

Thus, Kidd's decision for Lily to narrate the story allows readers to feel more profoundly the depth of loss, the great insecurity, and the enormous confusion her main character battles daily in her perplexing, desolate circumstance. Kidd's ability to combine the heart-breaking story of a motherless and abused teenager searching for her identity with the healing power of a community of black women, amidst an atmosphere of racial intolerance, with engaging rhetoric make this a poignant, moving story that empowers women and rehabilitates the role of black women in literature.

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