

## CHAPTER- ONE

### Introduction

This study is a quest on William Faulkner's novel *As I Lay Dying*. The psychic tension that invites the sense of alienation in the Bundren family is the major issue of the novel. It is his first remarkable novel after the publication of *The Sound and the Fury* in 1929. The novel *As I Lay Dying* is not a simple narrative but a vague and long has attracted many critics precisely. The thematic aspects as well as the narrative technique are equally strong in the novel. It is the description of funeral journey of the Bundren family from the hill of Yoknapatawpha to Jefferson where the influence of alienation within the family is depicted. Some critics appreciated, interpreted and criticized the novel studying the theme, character or its narrative device as their main concern. However, the present study differs from these approaches in the sense that it is an analysis that concentrates on the effect of psychological alienation on the Bundren family that exits as a fatal disease in *As I Lay Dying*. The application of psychoanalysis, especially alienation, will be effective in this research. Similarly, the contemporary socio- cultural practices of Southern America are equally responsible in creating the sense of isolation among different characters. It is due to the typical Southern American tradition that they do not lay emphasis on the mutual family relationship. On the other hand, in the rural South, however, economic hardship had been a way of life for years during the 1930s, especially for poor farmers because the Cotton industries were in worse condition that directly touched the farmers, which results in the psychological alienation in *As I Lay Dying*.

### Background to Faulkner's Life and His Works

William Faulkner, a renowned Southern American writer of the twentieth century, was born in 1897, at New Albany in the Southern State of America. Mississippi. The majority of his novels are set in this region, specific any in the area around Oxford, Mississippi and Jefferson, where he spent most of his childhood and large part of his later life. Because his novels are tied to a specific region, Faulkner is known as 'regional' novelist. William Faulkner recreates the history, the geography and the atmosphere of the place that he knew well in his novels. He wrote about childhood, race, alienation, family, sex, obsessions and the modern world. From the very beginning of his career, he sought to bring newness in the construction of the novel with narrative chronological style.

During his childhood, William Faulkner heard an endless number of stories about his great grandfather and other heroes of the American South. The stories about adventurous gallantry and horror told with all the greater emphasis, as the past seemed less and less receivable. Faulkner as a young boy did not need to study the history of the South; he lived in its shadow and experienced its decline. It was essential that the figure of his great grandfather should come to loom large in his boyhood mind and that he should saturate himself in legends of the past, a past that may not have been more virtuous but certainly seemed more vigorous and specious than the present.

The academic field of Faulkner was not regular rather it was erratic. He left high school at fifteen to work in his grand father's bank. He read broadly and showed his imagination in poetry and painting. He was enraptured by romantic verse which completely satisfied him. His first poem was published in *The New Republic* in 1919. Faulkner began his friendship with Phil Stone, a young Mississippian, in 1914, while he was studying to be a lawyer but already lost to a life long passion for literature. Stone, the young boy by the standards of his time and place, very sophisticated,

became the source to learn the new world modern culture to Faulkner. He holds many long conversations with Phil Stone about the problems of South that blended nostalgia and commentary to know it realistically.

William Faulkner tried to enlist in the army air corps during the period when the United States entered the First World War but was rejected because of his anatomy. After returning to Mississippi, Faulkner took some course at the State University. He did poorly in English and remained a student only for a year, and then he drifted into New York City, where he worked in Lord and Taylor's book department and drifted back to Oxford. For a while, he became a town character, walking about barefoot, wearing a monody and supporting himself doing odd job as carpenter and house paint. He then held a brief appointment as University Postmaster. Later on, he entered upon a state of mind which might be caused a crisis. The land to which he had returned was itself like an old battle field scarred by war, and its people seemed still to be living with a flawed but cherished past. The evidence of his early novels suggests that to Faulkner the two wars, the old war of his homeland and the recent war in Europe had a way of melting into one desolation. The traditional sense of Southern homogeneity was cracking. His economic condition was in great depression by salient industrialization and commerce.

The literary career of Faulkner began when he published a little book of poems *The Marble Faun* in 1924. But these verses met with deserved neglect. His whole career demonstrates that he commands a major gift for poetic evocation, but it is not a gift that can be contained within the limits of verse. He then read extensively the verses of Shakespeare, Keats and Shelley to reform his shortcomings.

Faulkner left Oxford in 1924 and settled for a time in New Orleans because the town Oxford could not be favorable for him in his literary ambitions. It mocked

him for trying to break away from the rules of conventional life; however, he needed a more sympathetic environment to build up his literary field. Faulkner met Elizabeth Prall, who was the wife of Sherwood Anderson, in New Orleans. Their friendship became very close, meeting in the afternoon to talk, quarrel, drink, drift through the hot streets and exchanged tall tales they both loved. As a well wisher, Sherwood Anderson, who had genuine gift for spotting talent, suggested him that Faulkner should try his hand at a novel. After few weeks, he came to Mrs. Anderson with the manuscript of a novel entitled *Soldier's Pay* that Anderson agreed to recommend to his publisher without reading it first. Anderson did not look into Faulkner's manuscript because of his native courtesy. Although *Soldier's Pay* couldn't be an excellent performance in the domain of fictional writing, its publication gave obvious creditability to his sense of himself as a writer in Oxford City.

In 1927, after two years of the publication of *Soldier's Pay*, Faulkner's novel *Mosquitoes* grew out of one of the projects he had begun in Paris. *Sartoris* (1929) is his novel that helped him to emerge as the writer of stunning and demanding originality. *The Sound and the Fury* is a very famous novel of Faulkner's which tells the story of grief and loss of the Compson family. His *Light in August* (1932) and *Intruder in the Dust* (1948) are equally important novels that reflect the various aspects as the injustice and victimization of black by whites. *A Fable* is his single non-regional or non -Yoknapatawpha writing that contains an amalgam of mythical tradition and ceremonial world.

Faulkner's fifth novel *As I Lay Dying* (1930) is a splendid work. It is an example of how his novels succeed, individually in conveying an impression not only of the characters they contain but also of the world which those characters inhabit. The basic design of the book is experimental. It is divided into different fifty-nine sections,

narrated by various characters. Seven of the narrators are from the same Bundren family. Anse, Cash, Darl, Jewel, Dewey Dell and Vardaman all actively participate in the funeral procession of Addie, the female protagonist and wife of Anse. This novel is the description of funeral procession from the hill of Yoknapatwpha to the town of Jefferson. Lack of adequate effective communication within the Bundren family exists as a fatal disease, which creates psychological alienation and invites tragedy in the family. The Southern traditions and socio- cultural practices of a poor Southern American are revealed in the novel. In *As I Lay Dying*, the depiction of moral degradation of American life is essential because the adultery of Addie with Mr. Whitefield is contemplating deed at all. In this novel, the impact of modernity and the influence of great economic depression of 1930s create frustration and depression in various characters. Finally, the biased relationship of a mother to her own children is the major issue in emergence of the psychological alienation in the novel.

Critics and the public reading did not immediately recognize Faulkner's immense gifts. Many of his texts were so difficult and closure that even the Nobel Prize committee found it slow going to assess his accomplishment. He was awarded Nobel Prize for literature in 1950 and Pulitzer Prize in 1962 just before his death.

### **Criticism on *As I Lay Dying***

Right from the beginning of the publication in 1930, different critics viewed the text *As I Lay Dying* differently. Some of the critics see the novel from absurdist vision of terror and vain existence of human being. At the same time, other critics remark it as a mere revelation of naked scandal of madness, death and existence. However, the sense of alienation in the novel *As I Lay Dying* is the prominent issue that invites the downfall of the Bundren family. Psychological influences of the contemporary society and lack of adequate effective communication among the family members creates

sense of alienation in the novel. Similarly, the economic depression of the 1930s plays a vital role in creating frustration and alienation within the Bundren family.

Regarding this novel, critic Swiggart Peter says that it is a mirror of individual isolation and lack of sense of a social role. In *The Art of Faulkner's Novels* he says, "the Bundrens live in Virtual isolation, without a significant past and without a sense of any social role to be maintained in the world's face" (109). Further, he remarks:

*As I Lay Dying*, the wholly serious aspects of the novel, which exist in relative independence, cannot be ignored. In this treatment of Addie Bundren and the troubles of her children, Faulkner takes up the Problem of individual isolation and man's desperate effort to achieve personal security in an insecure world. In her private life, Addie declined to make the social gestures of love and acceptance of family responsibility and her resulting alienation is mirrored in the male adjustments of her children. In her one monologue, presented after her funeral has been described, the reader is given the impression that even in death she dominates and corrodes the family emotional life. (116)

He deals that there is lack of social tie and the Bundren family live their personal life with out care of each other. The feeling of familial responsibility and mutual relationship is not available in the Bundren family members. Similarly, the mother, Addie shows her biased manner towards her own children that creates the emotional isolation in the children's mind.

Emphasizing the life negatively and the protagonist's manners of isolation Calvin Bedient in his "Pride and Nakedness: *As I Lay Dying*" comments:

In *As I Lay Dying* life is conceived as the antagonist, living is "terrible", the protagonist self is alone: a naked and isolated

consciousness in a broad land. This nakedness, this dreadful isolation, is already a kind of defeat, a form is in continual conflict with the world is simply a capitulation without dishonor: a surrender of everything if need be except pride. (63)

Bedient remarks that the members in the Bundren family have taken the life negatively. The feeling of frustration and depression play vital role in their life. Therefore, he gives emphasis on the modernistic approach and its influence in the psychology of Addie specially and other Bundren family members. According to Bedient, such type of negative concepts led this family towards its tragedy.

Commenting upon the spiritual isolation and comparing Addie with Hester in *The Scarlet Letter*, Melvin Backman in “Addie Bundren and William Faulkner” asserts; “*As I Lay Dying*, one might say, is Faulkner’s *The Scarlet Letter*: both novels portray a lonely woman of strength and pride who commits the sin of adultery with a minister in the woods, who conceives in sin, and who through love of child and service to her community, Addie’s to her family”(77). Malvin Backman focuses that “...the spiritual isolation and estrangement of a Quentin in achieving some measure of reconciliation with god and man is the result of the kind of love she had implanted in Jewel (77). Further Backman sees that the cultural rationalization and deprivation of proper love of Addie to all the children creates the psychological alienation in this novel. He writes:

The conscious thrust of the novel is toward Addie, the unconscious toward Darl. The conscious thrust, despite the death of Addie is [...]. Darl is the son who wanted Addie’s love Darl’s emotional deprivation is deeper his situation more isolated, his state of mind more unbalanced, his vision more poetic and ontological - for even the

author, one might say has cast him off. Quentin's suicide is life a romantic ritual carried out by a quixotic narcissist- idealist. There are no options, no cultural rationalizations for Darl; he is naked man seized and put away. (80)

In this context, Backman wants to describe that Addie's behaviors towards Darl created the emotional isolation. He become the victim of love of his mother and emotionally suffered from alienation. His state of mind was unbalanced and couldn't behave properly; the deprivation of parental love became significant for him. So, Backman revealed the relationship of the Bundren family and its impact in their life.

Paying attention to the low mentality of characters and almost animalistic manner because of isolation George Marion O'Donnell in his, "Faulkner's Mythology" depicts:

*As I Lay Dying* stands a little apart from the rest of Mr. Faulkner's novels, but it is based upon the estrangement essence of his *Sartoris* snoop theme – the struggle between humanism and naturalism. The naive hill folk who appear in the book are poor and ungraceful, certainly; they are low of mentality sexually they are almost animalistic. (27)

O'Donnell on the other hand says that the feeling of psychological alienation in the Bundren family appear because of poverty. They were unable to think about humanism and their moral aspects. But, their basic requirements became burden for them and couldn't pay their attention for mutual family relationship. As such, the Bundren family became the victim of psychological alienation and their personal interest became significant for them.

Malcam Cowley in his "Introduction to the Portable Faulkner" describes that in the absence of effective communication everything remains in disorder and the life



of different characters suffer from solitude and they treat obstinately with one another. He says, “In *As I Lay Dying*, everything whether all, hangs on too long; like our rivers, our land, opaque, slow” (43).

According to William Van O’ Conner, the alienation promotes because of biased manner and different doctrines about life in the Bundren family members. The contrastive relationship of love and hate to her own children by the same mother invites emotional isolation in the mind of Darl, Dewey Dell, Vardaman, etc. In his *William Faulkner*, he asserts:

Addie’s belief is that one should violate one’s aloneness, should not allow words like sin or love to serve in lieu of violation and involvement [...] But Addie also has curious rationalizations: Cash is her true son, she says, because while carrying him she had not yet realized that Anse’s life did not violate her nor her life violate his. Her second child Darl seemed a betrayal, and she rejects him. Then she had Jewel – but Whitefield is like Anse, so she feels Jewel is solely in her. She had Dewey Dell and Vardaman to make up for her having had Jewel. The two sons she accepts, Cash and Jewel, make great sacrifices together to Jefferson Darl hates Jewel because Addie loved him, and he tries to prevent her getting there. He says: “I have no mother.” Dewey Dell is indifferent to her mother and Vardaman is incapable of a moral decision.

O’Conner says that the biased manner of Addie towards her own children creates the sense of alienation in the Bundren family. She shows her deep love to Jewel but she strongly hates to Darl, Dewey Dell and did not pay her attention to the little child

Vardaman. So, the feeling of jealousy strongly appeared in the relationship of Jewel and Darl.

According to Addie, one has to have an obligation to be involved and to accept the accompanying and inevitable violence and suffering. Cash and Jewel apparently accept her doctrine, and live by it. Anse and the remaining children, for various reasons, do not. The three children are also victims of the lack of love between Anse and Addie. (16 - 17)

At the same time, the passive role of the father, Anse is equally responsible to emerge the feeling of isolation. He is failed to give proper instruction to his family members and become unable to play the role of a true father in his family: rather he himself is suffered from the emotional isolation.

Criticizing the characters' personal and distinct traits, and the lack of effective communication among the family members, Andre Bleikasten in his *Faulkner's As I Lay Dying* writes:

Faulkner gave each of his characters traits that are expressed through out the story. The reader is introduced to each character through their detailed and descriptive character traits. We are able to delve into the characters' mind and see their personal and distinct traits. He does not tell us anything about the characters. But he takes us into the mind of each character to analyze what we see there. Even though these characters lead parallel lives, we see the total alienation and breakdown of the relationship between each other. Darl, Jewel, and Anse possess characters traits that contribute to or cause the break down of their relationship.

He says that the characters presented in the novel are not able to communicate effectively with each other. On the contrary, they perform their personal traits and interest strongly. So, lack of education and the cultural influence of the then society have deep effect in the Bundren family. Bleikasten further says that the biased relationship of the mother Addie is equally responsible to create the sense of alienation in their mind.

Faulkner's use of multiple narrators underscores one of his primary themes: every character is essentially isolated from the others. Moreover, the characters in the novel do not communicate effectively with one another. The reader is privy to the character thoughts and emotional response; none of the characters adequately express their dilemmas or desires to others. Outside of Darl, who know Addie's and Dewey Dell secrets through intuition, the characters can only guess at the motivations, beliefs and feelings of others.

(132 - 33)

They do not have the culture to reveal the inner desires openly before the family members. But they keep their ideas and feeling secret within themselves. As such, the sense of isolation germinates in their mind and the relationship becomes weak and confusion among them.

Joseph W. Read, Jr. regarding this novel says that all the characters individually long momentary release instead of facing the challenge in-group. In "State and Society in Faulkner's *Light in August*", he remarks:

As individuals, the citizens do what they have found out how to do; each practices his specialty, storekeeping or farming or lawyering or doctoring, but each hates this practice life has forced upon him. All have longed for the release which the momentary distraction of the fire

offers. They will foster, even invent a belief that will enable them to continue this substitute life away from this frustration of their “real” live. If group action is a product of individuals, Faulkner suggests, it is not the product of blind or merely reacting individuals. (86)

Joseph in this context wants to declare that the Bundren family members dominated by the influence of modernistic features. They just think about their personal interest rather than others. Love, kindness and cooperation become less significant for them. But the individual doctrine forced them to follow their personal ideology and they are psychologically alienated.

James Guette in his *The Limits of Metaphor: A Study of Melville, Conard and Faulkner* depicts the human selfishness, plain stupidity, frustration and alienation of the different characters in the novel. He says:

*As I Lay Dying* does not minimize selfishness, aggrandizement, objections, or plain human stupidity. In tone, it can be quiet, grim, wild, bizarre, or sublime. Faulkner does not pretend that at the journey's end each character has had his opportunity to drink from the cup of wisdom and go home fully renewed. Darl goes mad, little Vardaman is as bemused as ever, Dewey Dell is simply frustrated, and Anse has used the burial journey as a way of getting a new wife. (60)

Guette has reflected the selfish nature and frustrated psychology of the different characters. He adds that this nature compelled them to live their isolated life. They become unable to live their happy life. He has analyzed that most of the family members are sad that Darl is mad, Dewey Dell is frustrated and Vardaman is nervous at the end of the novel.

The prominent critic Irving Howe attempts to demonstrate the American life style that does not take care essentially about their mutual family relationship. He opines that alienation is the cause of Addie's such manner of carelessness to the different family members. In his *William Faulkner: A Critical Study*, he views:

Addie Bundren is a remarkable image of a passionate woman, who, except for an incipient interval has, known only barrenness. Driven dark into herself, she unable to expresses her love for her favorite son, and ending with a realism of attitude more stringent than her husband, her sons nothing but unfulfilled passion. In her desperation to preserve her family and to raise her children properly, she seems classically American. (138)

Irving Howe wants to say that Addie has played the role of typical American mother. She becomes unable to show her proper love, kindness and mutual relationship with her children. But, she shows her biased manner that creates a sense of jealousy in the relationship between the children of the same Bundren family. As such, Howe wants to reveal the modernistic features of American life that becomes significant causes to bring the sense of alienation in their mind.

## CHAPTER-TWO

### **Alienation**

Alienation generally means turning away or keeping away from associates, friends and society. It is a certain psychological state of normal individual who has been isolated from, made unfriendly toward his family and cultures. Alienation is an individual state of dissociations from others and from the world in broad. A term used threadbare in the religio-socio-political intercourse for ages, alienation is a psyche of estrangement and loss in general. It is a condition in which an individual cannot realize all the potentials of his life, he feels outcast in terms of his relationship to society and his fellow men. This is different from what alienation is in religious and existentialist terms. Especially in this dissertation, the term alienation will be understood as a segregated human psyche in the Bundren family.

Alienation is existential loneliness. Alienation in this sense is not only a feeling but that it is also an objective fact, a way of being that refers to a psychological feeling. Essence is a self-construct. It is not something in common with others. It is an individual choice. An individual finds others in conflict with his essence. He doesn't find his individual identity in the crowd. He even finds the whole of universe hostile to his aspiration. Thus, an individual is in conflict within himself, with the herd and even the world at large that invites alienation. Alasdair Macintyre defines:

'Alienation' (estrangement) bears the constant notion of having the feeling of being a stranger or an outsider. It is to be in exile -exile from the milieu one lives, from one's products and even from oneself. It has different meanings in everyday life, in science, and in philosophy. But the one broad meaning of it is the one suggested by

etymology and morphology of the word the meaning in which  
 “alienation (or estrangement) is the act, or result of the act, through  
 which something or somebody, becomes (or has become) alien (or  
 strange) to something or somebody else.”

Alasdair says that alienation is such position of human being who seems different than others. The everyday activities of such individual look strange to the common people. It is because isolation becomes lovelier than the company of other people.

In Psychiatry, alienation means deviation from normal life that is insanity. In psychology and sociology, it is often used to name an individual’s feeling of alienation toward society, nature, other people or himself. For many socialists and philosophers alienation is same as reification: the act (or result of the act) of transforming human relations and actions into properties and actions of things which are independent of man and which govern his life. For other philosophers “alienation” means “self-alienation” (self-estrangement), the process, or result of the process. (“Alienation” 76)

He defines that alienation is a different form than a normal condition. He has described through the perspective of psychology and sociology and declared that alienation means feeling of loneliness from society and other people. For him, some philosopher describes alienation as the position of being separate by himself/herself.

### **History of the Concept of ‘Alienation’**

Hegel first philosophically elaborated the concept of alienation. Some writers have taken the Christian doctrine of original sin and redemption to be the first version of Hegel’s doctrine of alienation and dealienation. According to other thinkers, the

concept of alienation found its first expression in Western thought in *The Old Testament's* concept of idolatry. Some have argued that the source of Hegel's view of nature as a self-alienated form of absolute mind can be found in Plato's view of natural world as an imperfect picture of the sublime world of ideas. But, the explicit elaboration of 'alienation' began with the thinkers Hegel and Karl Marx. These thinkers' interpretation of 'alienation' is the starting point for all philosophical discussions of present day in psychology, sociology, and philosophy.

### **Fredrick Hegel**

Basic idea of Hegel's philosophy is absolute idea (Absolute mind, absolute spirit, or its popular language, God). His absolute mind is neither a set of fixed things nor a sum of static properties but a dynamic self, engaged in a circular process of alienation and dealienation. Nature is only a self-alienated form of absolute mind. Man is the absolute in the process of dealienation. According to him, the whole of human history is the constant growth of man's knowledge of absolute and at the same time, the development of self-knowledge of the absolute that through finite mind becomes self-aware and returns to himself from his self-alienation in nature.

However, finite mind also becomes alienated. It is essential characteristic of finite mind (man) to produce things, to express it in objects, to objectify itself in physical things. Social institutions and cultural products, and every objectification are, of necessity, an instance of alienation: the produced objects become alien to the producer. Alienation in this sense can be overcome only in the sense of being adequately known. It is volition of man to serve as the organism of the self-knowledge of the absolute. Hegel's view is recorded in "History as the Self-Realization of Spirit":



Spirit, on the contrary, may be as that which has its centre in itself. It has not a unity outside itself, but has already found it; it exists in and with itself. Matter has its essence out of itself. Spirit is self-contained existence (Bei-sich-selbst-seyn). Now this is freedom, exactly, for if I am dependent, my being is referred to something else, which I am not, I can't exist independently of something external. I am free, on the contrary, when my existence depends upon myself. This self-contained existence of spirit is none other than self-consciousness\_consciousness of one's own being [. . .]. The nation, under the influence of Christianity, was first to attain the consciousness, that man, as man, is free; it is the freedom of spirit which constitutes essence. (457)

Hegel gives emphasis on the social institutions and cultural products to create the sense of alienation on human being. For Hegel, existence of dependent spirit is a result of alienation. Therefore, man doesn't expose this function of act of self-consciousness. He does not fulfill his human essence and is merely self-alienated.

### **Anselm Feuebach**

Feuebach accepted Hegel's view that man can be alienated from himself but rejected both the views that man is self-alienated from absolute mind and man is in the process of delineation. For him, man isn't alienated but God has alienated man. 'He' is man's essence absolutes and estranged from man. Man is not alienated to the point he refuses to recognize nature as self-alienated form of Gods. He (man) is alienated from himself when he creates and puts above himself an imagined alien high being and bows before that being as a stare.

## **Karl Marx**

According to Karl Marx, there are many forms in which man alienates himself from the products of his own activity and makes them a separate, independent and powerful from the other world. Man not only alienates his products from himself, he also alienates himself from the activity through which these products are produced, from the natural world in which he lives, from other men. He basically gives emphasis to the economic issue as the idea of alienation. He supports the Feuerbach criticism of religious alienation as well and takes it as one of the many forms of man's alienation.

Karl Marx believes that man is species being. He treats himself as a universal free thinker. Man makes his nature in organic body that constitutes a part of human consciousness. Talking about how the consciousness of the man gets alienation, Marx elaborates:

Man's species is being, both nature and his spiritual being, into a means of his individual existence. It estranges man from his own body as well as external nature and his spiritual essence, his human being. [. . .] An immediate consequence of the fact that man is estranged from the product of his labour, from his life activity, from his species being is the estrangement of man from man. When man confronts himself, also holds of a man's relation to the other man's labour and object of labour. ("Alienation" 741)

He describes that economic issue and his labour determine the individual existence for their estrangement. So, Marx wants to prove that human being are guided by the

economic activities but they could not be able control the economic activities completely.

In the twentieth century, especially after the great World Wars, alienation has become the prominent subject of discussion in many fields. Among psychologists, sociologists, philosophers, literary critics and writers, it is the subject matter much discussed and these present day writers perceive alienation differently. Most relevant to my study is the definition of psychologists and writers who apply it to man referring only to individuals not to the society at large. According to them, the non-adjustment of the individual to the associates and society is the sign of alienation.

According to Eric and Mary Josepson, “alienation is an individual feeling or state of dissociations from self, from others and from the world in a whole” (*Man Alone: Alienation in Modern Society*). Alienation as perceived by Eric and Josepson encompasses the three things: split between men’s real ‘essence’ and his actual existence, meaning the self-alienated man finds his actual existence not corresponding to his ‘essence’ conflict with others and with the world at large.

Similarly, Gwynn Nettler in *A Measure of Alienation* defines that, “Alienation is a certain psychological state of a normal person and an alienated person is one who has been estranged from, made unfriendly toward his society and the culture it carries” (672). Nettler mainly gives emphasis to the mental status of an individual.

Lovin Murray focuses upon the inability to fulfill one’s rightful role in society, one loses his status in society, and he feels alienation. He remarks, “The essential characteristic of the alienated man is his belief that he isn’t able to fulfill what he believes his rightful role in society” (“Man Alone” 289). It is due to the individual losing the ground to maintain his dignity in the society.

## **Analysis of Human Behavior-Psychoanalysis**

Psychoanalysis is the study of the thought process and behavior of humans, other animals' instinct and their interaction with the environment in general. In this context the processes of sense perception, thinking, learning cognition, emotions and motivations, personality, abnormal behavior, interactions between individuals and their interactions with the environment has the significant role. The field is closely allied with such disciplines as anthropology and sociology in its concerns with social and environmental influences on behavior; physics in its treatment of vision, hearing and touch, and biology in the study of the physiological basis of behavior. However, in this research the study of individual psychology, personal emotions, motivations and their behaviors among each other becomes significant.

The prominent Austrian psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud has defined psychoanalysis in detail and developed a theory of the mind that has come to dominate modern thought that depicts the psychological alienation of human mind. His notions of the unconscious of a mind divided against itself that the meaningless thought can turn into the meaningfulness expression. Similarly, the sexual motivation has its great importance because it can help to shape the consciousness by the displacement and transference of feelings. In course of analyzing psychoanalysis, he talks about the language (that of his translators), specifying divisions of the mind (id, ego and superego) and types of disorder (obsessional, neurosis) or the structure of experience (Oedipal complex, narcissism) have become the language in which we describe and understand others and ourselves. Freud believes that the confrontation between id, ego, and superego invites depression, frustration and leads toward alienation from the group. One's self-idea becomes prominent issue for him rather than others. In his *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, he asserts:

Not all of depression and anxiety result from discrepancies between one's self-ideal and self-concept as some humanist's purpose or from one's confrontation with an existential crisis as the existentialists suggest or from inner conflict between the id, ego, and superego. The average person's fears and moments of depression result from conditional reactions we face in the daily conflicts with family or peer group, or at work. Such conflicts occur when we must interact with others in a situation that makes us feel anxious. (250)

Freud basically talks about id, ego, superego, and their confrontation are the causes to create the sense of alienation. Depression and anxieties are equally important for the emergence of isolation that they are the product of environment. So, the psychological position of an individual depends on their close surrounding or family.

Freud is best known for his tendency to trace nearly all-psychological problems. Although the major concern of his theory of psychosexual development is still accepted by mainstream psychologists. Freud's theory of the Oedipal Complex has become a cultural icon nevertheless. However, he did not miss to raise the issue of alienation as a psychological problem in the society. According to him, different kinds of socio-cultural practices, norms and behaviors generate the feeling of envy, anxiety and hate within the individual that psychologically create the sense of alienation. The famous Freudian innovations include the therapy couch, the use of talk therapy to resolve psychological problems and his theories about the unconscious, including the role of repression, denial, sublimation and projection. Initially, Freud was trained in neurology and he originally drew inspiration from the work of Charles Darwin which explained the behavior in evolutionary terms. But Freud's introduction to hypnotherapy and to the stunning revelations it elicited from mentally ill patients

led him to develop a revolutionary theory of the mind and of the dynamics underlying human behavior.

Freud gradually got convinced of the connection between neurosis and sexual conflict. It is not surprising that a large portion of his patients probably were suffering from sexual conflicts that create the feeling of alienation in human mind. In fact, in general, sexual repression, sexual ignorance and cultural assimilation were rampant that generalized the theories of human behavior in a shape. Thus, he became convinced of the overwhelming importance of the sex drive, both in shaping personality and emotional status, in contributing to neurosis and psychological dysfunction. His theories of Oedipal Complex shocked the world by claiming that even infants have a sex drive and that little boys become emotionally and sexually fixated on their own mothers while viewing their fathers as hated sexual rivals to be defeated. As such, the contemplation and crisis may appear as a significant issue in the family. The breakdown of mutual family relationship generates the emotional isolation psychologically.

Sigmund Freud believes that the person best to undergo psychoanalysis is someone who, no matter how incapacitated at the time, is potentially a study of individual. This person may have already achieved important satisfactions with friends in work, in marriage or through special interests but is nonetheless significantly impaired by long standing symptoms: depression or anxiety, physical symptoms or sexual incapacities without any demonstrable underlying physical causes. Private rituals or compulsions or repetitive thoughts of which no one else is aware may plague one. Another may live in a constricted life of isolation and loneliness, incapable of feeling close to anyone. Some people come to analyze that the repeated failures in work or in love and care invites the sense of psychic alienation

in their mind that is self-destructive in practical life. According to Freud, each individual suffers from repression towards his or her dear one relatives and it takes on characteristics of being unconscious. Freud in his *An Introduction to Psychoanalysis* states:

The obsessional form of repression has a basis in a sadistic trend that is substituted for affectionate one. It is the hostile impulse against someone who is loved that is repressed. At first, the repression is completely successful but the subject and the symptom do not coincide. In obsessional neurosis, then, repression causes a withdrawal of libido but it makes use of a reaction formation to do so (by intensifying an opposite of the repression). The ambivalence that enabled the repression via the reaction formation, to take place is also the point at which the repressed succeeds in returning. The vanished affect returns in its altered form as moral anxiety, social anxiety and unlimited self-reproaches. The rejected idea therefore is replaced by a substitute through the mechanism of displacement the failure of repression to rid the patient of the affect brings into play the same mechanism as flight response through avoidance, prohibition and hysterical phobias. Still, the rejection of the idea is still maintained.

(302)

In this context, Freud talks about the human nature where the repression and social anxiety play the vital role. He declares that the libido of human creates such feelings that they desire to live alienated life. They have several ideas that they cannot express all of them because of prohibition and social taboo. As such, different psychology

can appear in the society and they may suffer from alienation to fulfill their inner desires.

The most fundamental concept of psychoanalysis is the notion of the unconscious mind as reservoir for 'repressed' memories of traumatic events that continuously influence conscious thought and behavior. The scientific evidence for this notion of unconscious repression is lacking, though there is ample evidence that nonconscious memory and processes influence conscious thought and behavior. It creates anxiety, jealousy and hate on human being which has the significant role for the formation of solitude in an individual.

Supporting the very Freudian notion, another psychoanalyst D.L. Shepard says that the unconscious mind determines the conscious behavior of human beings. It is because we are unaware of what we behave why we do as we do. In *Psychology: The Science of Human Behavior*, he remarks:

Freud's studies led him to infer that there are unconscious processes that determine our behavior. Freud's concept of "unconsciousness" sometimes took on an almost mystical quality of an inner man or id, ego, and superego with in the individual. However, evidence for any on going unconscious process is lacking. Psychologists today are more likely to simply note that much of our behavior is "unconscious", in the sense that we are unaware of why we behave as we do. However, the "unconscious" processes inferred by Freud may be as legitimate a construct as the "conscious" process most people cite in explaining our behavior. In a remarkable perceptive analysis of "conscious" and "unconscious" behavior, one can explore the individual psychology.

(304)



Again he emphasizes the Freudian concept that such system of leading to 'conscious' by 'unconscious' invites 'jealousy', 'anxiety' and 'hate' in human psyche that have vital role for emergence of isolation.

### **Hate**

Hate, is a mode of guilt or of pride that generates the destructive thoughts. Hate by itself is the emotional dynamic of the ability to sustain long periods of concentration and meditation. It does not require an object to focus on; it is a general purpose, tool for cutting positive attachments, especially in relationships. Hate produces clear thinking and strengthens a person's will power that supports the desire for solitude. It cools the mind and may easily be mistaken for a mild sense of place. It is likely to be the prevailing mood when a mediator claims that they are no longer acting from a sense of ego. As a result, one needs isolation and begins to neglect the company and suggestions of others.

### **Jealousy**

Jealousy denigrates the achievements as an individual since it prefers to seek recognition and approval from other people. Social conforming is the norm and only social achievements are valued, however, the victim of jealousy supposes his own ideology as the real but he could not get support from others and experiences loneliness. The concept of handling the duty and obligation do not pay much attention during such period. Therefore, jealousy can divert man from his right path and provoke towards alienation. Jealousy stands as a barrier of adequate effective communication and produces the psychic tension and isolation.

## **Anxiety**

Anxiety is a cerebral emotion; when it is intense, it fogs the mind producing mental tiredness and the incapacity for intellectual work. In social company, anxiety stimulates a compulsive behavior that leads man towards isolation. People do not want to engage in-group rather they need their own world of solitude in anxiety. Similarly, they like to do these works only of their wish but not recommended by other. It keeps the person focused on negative emotions and usually arises the modes of hostile feelings. The fear mode of anxiety is generated by a dictatorial conscience or the voice of authority. It can originate from the family setting that parent's commands become internalized into an oppressive conscience that directs oneself to practice self-control emotionally.

Freud postulates that an obsessional neurotic operates as a means of drawing the obsessive individual from reality and isolating him or her from the external world. This dissociation from the real world is said to allow the obsessive person to turn his or her attention to subjects upon which we are uncertain and upon which our knowledge and judgments must necessarily remain in doubt. Such dissociation is also used to the fullest extent to aid in the formation of symptoms that includes the notion of the omnipotence of thoughts and feelings. They overestimate the effects of their thoughts and feelings on the external world because large parts of their internal, mental escape their conscious knowledge. Freud in his *Collected Papers* writes:

...by the medium of consciousness each of us become aware only of his own states of mind; that possesses consciousness is a conclusion drawn by analogy from the utterances and actions we perceive him to make, and it is drawn in order that this behavior of his may become intelligible to us (it would probably be psychologically more correct to

put it thus: that without any special reflection we impute to everyone else our own constitution and therefore also our consciousness and that this identification is necessary condition of understanding in us). This conclusion or identification was formerly extended by the ego to other human beings to animals, plants, and inanimate matter and to the world at large and proved useful as long as the correspondence with the individual ego was overwhelmingly great, but it became untrustworthier in proportion as the gulf between the ego and non-ego widened. Today our judgment is already in doubt on the question of consciousness in animals we refuse to admit it in plants and we relegate to mysticism the assumption of its existence in inanimate matter [ . . . ] when the non-ego is our fellow-man the assumption of consciousness in him rests upon an inference and cannot share the direct certainty we have of our own consciousness. (102)

Freud believes that the different activities of family members construct the psychology of an individual. The thoughts and feelings of an individual may influence by the each deeds of his \ her family members. He declares that the thoughts existed in the unconscious mind sometimes create anxiety that can lead a person to psychological alienation.

Supporting the Freudian perspective of psychoanalysis, M.H. Abrams in his *A Glossary of Literary Terms* says that psychoanalysis deals with the state of mind and the personality of an individual. Basically, he emphasizes the activities of different person differently. He states; “Psychological criticism deals with a work of literature primarily as an expression, in fictional form, of the state of mind and structure of

personality of the individual” (247). He brings the issues of Freudian sexual connotation and asserts:

Literature and the other arts, like dreams and neurotic symptoms, consist of the imagined or fantasized, fulfillment of wishes that are denied by reality or are prohibited by the social standard of morality and propriety. The forbidden, mainly sexual wishes, come into the unconscious realm of the artist’s mind, but are permitted by the censor to achieve a fantasized satisfaction in distorted forms which serve to disguise their real motives and objects from the conscious mind. (248-49)

Abrams supports the Freudian notion that sex plays vital role for the formation of psychology of an individual. He remarks that each field is influenced by the sexual motivation. Sexual issues directly motivate personal feelings and thoughts; however, the social morality strongly controls it.

Similarly, psychologists Robert Woodworth and Donald G. Marquis in *Psychology: A Study of Mental Life* comment on the psychoanalysis as the study of individual’s activities in relation to the environment throughout the span of life. They remark:

Psychoanalysis is the scientific study of the activities of the individual in relation to his environment. The social science studies the notion and groups of mankind. There is room for a middle science that shall focus its attentions on the individual. That science is especially psychology. Psychoanalysis studies the individual’s activities throughout his span of life, from his small beginning before birth up

through infancy, childhood, and adolescent to maturity and still further on through the declining years. During this life history, he remains the same individual and his behavior shows continuity along with many changes. [. . .]. Psychology can be defined as the science of the individual quite alien from others. (2-3)

They say that psychoanalysis is the scientific study of personal activities in relation to the environment. According to them, we can study the psychology of an individual since his childhood to the old age. The environment may change the psychology of the same individual. So, psychology depends on the others behavior and external environment of an individual.

In Freudian Psychoanalysis, the significance of the organism (id, ego and superego) is very wide and effective. He says that the organism is special, it acts to survive and reproduce and it is guided toward those ends by its needs, hunger, thirst, the avoidance of pain and sex. The very important part of organism is the nervous system which has as one its characteristic a sensitivity to the organism's need. At birth, that nervous system is little more than that of any other animal, an id. The nervous system, as id translates the organism's needs into motivation forces called wishes. Similarly, the other small portion of mind, during the first year of a child's life, some of 'id' becomes 'ego'. The 'ego' relates the organism to reality by means of its consciousness and it searches for objects to satisfy the wishes that id craves to represent the organism wishes. Another part of organism is superego, the conscience and ego ideal which drives from rewards and positive models that communicate their requirement to the ego with feelings like pride, shame, and guilt. Conflict on the new wishes of 'id' by superego is essential that represents society and it appears as an obstacle to satisfy and fulfill the desires.

## CHAPTER-THREE

### Textual Analysis

The novel *As I Lay Dying* is a description of the funeral journey of the female protagonist Addie from the hill of Yoknapatawpha to Jefferson. After her death, the family undertakes the task of transporting her body to the town for burial that is fraught with difficulty. It has no fixed narrator and composed of different characters' successive interior monologues, the rendition of a character's inner thoughts and feelings. Each voice is subjective shaped by the particular character's views and perceptions. Communication gap, proper awareness of mutual family relationship and the impact of modernization exist constantly that leads them toward alienation. In this novel, Anse, Addie, Cash, Darl, Jewel, Dewey Dell and Vardaman are the characters from the same Bundren family. It has fifteen different narrators with their own expressions that bring confusion and contradictory jumble in the novel. Similarly, the use of narrative technique in this novel is equally important through which it becomes easier to expose the sense of alienation in the psyche of the Bundren family.

Addie, the mother, a female protagonist of the novel, has exposed her biased manner to her own different children. Hence, such worthless manner of the mother raises the psychological alienation on many children like Darl, Vardaman and Dewey Dell. She also could not perform her proper behavior to her husband, Anse, whom she finds lazy and passive one. Instead of Anse, Addie supports Mr. Whitefield (an illegal husband) from whose side she gives birth to a son called Jewel, who gets enough support and love from his mother in comparison to others that invite enmity in the Bundren family. Birth of jealousy and anxiety appears in the different Bundren family members like Darl, Jewel, Cash and Dewey Dell. As a result, communication gap in the family exists constantly, which leads them toward alienation.

However, all the time, Addie needs the help and love from Jewel. In her final day, also, she asks him to stay close with her but she refuses other's company. In response, Jewel also attempts his best for his mother's sake even after her death. He does not pay much attention after losing the horse in course of crossing the dead body from the bridge. Jewel is not satisfied with the manner of his family members. He thinks they treat mother improperly, when Cash suggests about the coffin that is going to complete, Jewel loses his temper while he is sitting beside his dying mother. He imagines "I told him to go somewhere else. I said Good God do you want to see her in it" (11). Jewel seems very much annoyed by the condition of mother. He takes sister and brothers as 'buzzards' and imagines himself alone with Addie on top of a hill. He emerges as an embittered man, sensitive as none of the others are to his mother's feelings. He imagines that they will be happy after the death of mother that they are waiting curiously. He postulates:

And now them others sitting there, like buzzards waiting, fanning themselves. Because I said if you wouldn't keep on sawing and nailing at it until a man can't sleep even and her hands lying on the quilt like two of them, roots dug up and tried to wash and you couldn't get them clean. [. . .] sawing and knocking, and keeping the air always moving so fast on her face that when you're tired you can't breathe it, and that goddamn adze going one lick less. (11)

His attitude seems very much selfish and biased that he himself only can love truly his mother. He is very much emotional than rational, negates the practical things in his life, and lives the alienated life separating from others.

This is an image full of violence, eloquent of deep resentment, and of isolation. It suggests that Jewel has over the years built up his hatred of his family and this bond with his mother.

All the family members contribute as much they can for burial of the dead body of Addie. Anse, the husband, makes all the provision for the funeral procession; Cash makes the coffin with full craftsmanship for his mother and so on. However, the revelation of human psyche is quite authentic in this novel because when the mother shows her discrimination towards her own children. The sense of jealousy, frustration and alienation appears automatically in the mind of Darl and others. And Darl sets the fire upon the stinking body of Addie to make Jewel jealous and to take revenge upon Addie because she hates Darl. This incident increases the enmity between Jewel and Darl and the feeling of isolation develop in their mind.

Faulkner presents his characters by associating them with objects that suggest their respective identities. It is the author's personal technique of defining characters. In *As I Lay Dying*, before meeting Tull we encounter his wagon; before Cash voices, we hear the roar of his saw and chucking of his adze; and of course before meeting Addie, we see her coffin being assembled. These objects come to stand for the individuals themselves, as symbol of, and clues to, their identities. Tull's wagon implies that he is a man of wealth and industry, Cash's saw and adze signify that he is a skilled craftsman, and Addie's coffin signals her death. Similarly, we can learn from what the characters do not say. When Darl comes upon Cash, they exchange no words, leaving us to ponder the dull chops of the axe. This tendency toward mute interaction is certainly not limited to Darl and Cash but demonstrates thoroughly in the novel. Again, the use of multiple points of view underscores this separation, with the characters so isolated from each other that even their thoughts cannot be mixed.



Similarly, the tools saw and adze used by Cash represent the poor family living standards of the Bundren family that is the major cause for communication gap that invites alienation and the downfall in the family relationship.

In the novel, *As I Lay Dying*, the introduction of several new voices, the narrative becomes more complex and stylized which refers to the personal feelings and motivations differently. The frequent appearance of Darl as a narrator and his voice has the least peculiarity. His mode of speech modifies the plot of the story that is Faulkner's prose style in novels. Darl is present as an omniscient narrator who narrates Addie's death even though he is not present when it happens. He depicts Anse, as luckless man when he hears such words from Anse's mouth. He narrates, "it is fixing up to rain", pa says. "I am luckless man. I have ever been". He rubs his hands on his knees" (15). Anse couldn't live satisfactory life before his wife's death because she neglected him and after her death as well he feels lonely and frustration in his life. Psychologically he seems victimized by the family chaotic environment and makes marriage with a woman in his old age just to get company, which is ironic.

*As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner depicts the Southern American family relationship where there is lack of unity, cooperation and love among all the family members. Addie loves her son Jewel and so does Jewel. However, Addie openly hates Darl, Dewey Dell, neglects her husband Anse, and destroys the child psychology of Vardaman. She has taken the loneliness as her pride forgetting all the duties and responsibilities toward the family. Thus, Cora Tull, the neighbor of Addie, portrays her in such a way that Addie hides the fact and suffers from the isolation. Cora says:

She lived, a lonely woman, lonely with her pride, trying to make folks believe different, hiding the fact that they just suffered her, because she

was not cold in the coffin before they were carting her forty miles away to bury her, flouting the will of God to do it. Refusing to let lie in the same earth with those Bundrens, she desires to be alone even after of death. (18)

Addie, as a modern woman embodies the alienation deeply. She takes it as her glory that invites pathetic adversities in the Bundren family. She even wants to be separate even after death. So, she promises her husband to bury in Jefferson that shows her depressed psychology.

Supporting the very notion of hate and isolation of Addie, Michael Millgate accepts that she treats her children with biased manner and hates her husband, Anse. In his *William Faulkner*, he comments:

It was the pain of Cash's birth, however, that made Addie realize that Anse had never truly violated her selfhood, her proud "aleness", and that the words like "love" he was so fond of using were only empty abstractions. Addie therefore rejects Anse and when Darl was born her sense of outrage and betrayal was so great that she rejected him also. Thus, Darl feels that he has no mother, and is uncertain, eventually to the point of madness, of his own individuality; he does not love Addie and tries by burning her coffin to stop the journey to Jefferson. (37)

Millgate depicts the prejudiced manner of Addie towards Darl especially and her husband Anse. Darl feels that he has no mother and deprived from motherly love that haunts him intensely. As a result, Darl goes mad and does not love his mother Addie rather attempts to burn her coffin in the midway. Therefore, lack of mutual family relationship in the Bundren family appears vividly.

Similarly, another critic, William Van O'Connor describes the behavior of Addie with full of discriminations. In his *William Faulkner*, he remarks:

One has an obligation to be involved, and to accept the accompanying and inevitable violence and suffering. Cash and Jewel apparently accept her doctrine, and live by it. Anse and the remaining children, for various reasons, do not. The three children are also victim of the lack of love between Anse and Addie. Addie while faithful to her belief in the need for violation is not faithful to Darl, Dewey Dell or Vardaman, the children of her flesh though not of her doctrine. She rejects them. (16-17)

O'Connor describes the Addie's doctrine which is quite harmful in her family atmosphere. According to him, the children who are victim of the parental love compel to live the chaotic life. He defines the lack of duties and responsibilities of modern parents towards their children rather they emphasis to their own doctrine.

On the other hand, Anse, the father of the Bundren family, is very passive. He also becomes unable to pay his duties upon the family. Addie's behavior psychologically haunts him and he suffers from depression and isolation. As a guardian of the poor farmer family, he fails to fulfill the demands of his family members. Therefore the victim of poverty, Anse suffers from the alienation in the absence of communication.

The Southern American cultural tradition is revealed in the novel *As I Lay Dying*, which is one of the essential issue for the creation of depression and psychological alienation. Faulkner as a regionalist writer has depicted the realistic scenario of the different characters that creates emotional alienation within

themselves. Addie, the mother of the Bundren family, involves in the illegal sexual act with Mr. Whitefield, neglecting her husband Anse. It is an immoral act that benumbed Anse to be embarrassed in the society. As a result, he desires to be away from his friends and associates. Likewise, when Darl knows about the immoral relationship between Addie and Mr. Whitefield, he openly satirizes Jewel, who is from Mr. Whitefield (an illegal husband of Addie). Darl frequently asks about Jewel's father which is not bearable for him and Jewel threatens Darl. Addressing Jewel when Darl asks about his father, he loses his temper and scolds him. The conversation is as follows:

“Your mother was a horse, but who was your father, Jewel?”

“You goddamn lying son of a bitch.”

“Don't call me that”

"You Goodman lying son of a bitch".

“Don't call me that, Jewel.” In the moonlight his eyes look like spots of white paper pasted on a high small football. (198)

The existential crisis becomes the central issue in this conversation. Jewel suffers from the question about his father that Darl frequently asks him. Ironically, Darl himself annoys marital love because he becomes unable to get it from his mother. So, the issue of identity is raised quite openly by Darl and Jewel which is the common problem of them.

Hence, when morality becomes the subject of open discussion within the family, they all internally suffer from the isolation because they cannot exchange their inner thoughts and motivations among each other. Instead of loving manner of his mother, Jewel suffers from the mental stress of his father. In a sense, Addie is the

representative modern woman who denies the words “marriage” and “motherhood” and desires alien life as a creative and expressive form. The linguistic terms ‘marriage’ and ‘motherhood’ seems meaningless for Addie that invites tragic moment in her life. It is the fact that morality, sin and religion determine the actions of the characters. Although these factors heavily fall into the events of the novel, Faulkner is rarely moralistic or judgmental. Though some of his characters know what is right and wrong, they often feel free to discard that awareness, while other characters such as Addie are confused about what is morally correct in the first place.

In course of analyzing the family environment of the Bundren family when we turn toward Dewey Dell, she has her own adversity that leads her to absolute frustration and isolation. In the beginning, she is deceived by Lefe when he leaves her after pregnancy. Again, in Jefferson, the boy as a doctor exploits her in course of making abortion that is unsuccessful attempt. Later on, she feels depressed and tries her suicidal attempt. She thinks of her dead mother, a lucky one. She opines:

“It is just a loan; God knows, I hate for my blooden children to reproach me. But I give them what was mine without stint. Cheerful, I give them, without stint. And now they deny me. Addie. It was lucky for you died, Addie.”

“Pa. Pa.”

“God knows it is”. (244)

The absolute depressed psychology of Dewey Dell appears when she thinks her dead mother a lucky one. Death becomes an emancipator for her that shows the extreme frustration and alienation in her life. The psychic tension is the result of subjugation by the doctor and deprivation of her mother’s love.

At the same time, the insane condition of Darl annoys Dewey Dell. She does not like the relationship between Darl and Jewel. Such family circumstances add more tension and alienation in her mind. She says, “my brother is Darl. He went to Jackson on the train. He didn’t go on the train to go crazy. He went crazy in our wagon” (239). When Darl acts like a maniac and goes towards Jackson by train, she shows her sympathy and affection to him.

Therefore, her feelings reveal the contemporary Southern American society and the human psyche of the then period that is essential for emotional isolation. At the same time, when we see the various motifs of different characters (like Dewey Dell needs abortion pills, Anse desires of false teeth and Cash’s tension of broken leg) during the period of funeral procession suggests the materialistic love and degraded family relationship in the novel.

Finally, in this novel alienation is germinated in various characters like Addie, Anse, Darl, Jewel and Dewey Dell that lead them to the downfall of their family life. The different factors cultural, moral, and economic, modernity, etc, play the vital role to create alienation in the psyche of the Bundren family. The psychological problem, alienation, proves a fatal disease in the Bundren family because no member escapes from this disaster in the family. Each of them has their own sorts of tension which brings them toward the isolation. Addie, the female protagonist, has taken the isolation as her pride because she wants to live her single life. Focusing upon this notion of Addie’s emotional isolation, critic Calvin Bedient comments that the family life is full of antagonism that destroys her solitudeness. In “Pride and Nakedness: As I Lay Dying”, he states:

In *As I Lay Dying*, life is conceived as the antagonist living is “terrible”, the protagonist self is “alone” a naked and isolated

consciousness in a broad land. This nakedness of abjectness, so that the utmost to be expected from the mind in its continual conflict with the world is simply a capitulation without dishonor [ . . . ] if need to be expect pride. (63)

Critic Bedient describes mainly about the alienation of the female protagonist Addie that invites the terrible situation in the Bundren family. He also analyses that life itself becomes the antagonist for them which they want to end in death. Bedient in this context applied the typical modernist vision in the novel *As I Lay Dying*.

Anse, the husband of Addie, also suffers from the alienation when she commits the sin of adultery with Mr. Whitefield and neglects him and other family members. As such, some of the family members go mad and others are deprived of the parental love and mutual family relationship.

The sense of alienation haunts the mind of Dewey Dell when she finds the enmity in the relationship of her brothers Darl and Jewel. They both are jealous of each other and one wish the downfall of the other which causes the ruin of the family. Later on, when Dewey Dell is deceived by her boy friend Lefe by making her pregnant, she is entirely alienated in this world. She even desires for suicide. Her womb becomes the matter of tension and attempts to make abortion. However, the false doctor cheats her and she cannot abort it. Hence, she is psychologically isolated from this world. Similarly, the insane position of Darl at the end of the novel annoys her and gives additional tension. It is because she shows her love and sympathy for his betterment.

The biased manner of the mother directly becomes the source of the creation of alienation in the mind of Darl. Addie, the mother, hates him openly and loves Jewel

that gives birth to the feeling of jealousy in both of the mind. Such deprivation of parental love gradually increase the isolation on Darl and cannot bear such environment in his life and goes mad at the end of the novel that totally brings chaos in his life. On the other hand, when Jewel loses his dear horse in course of crossing Addie's dead body in the bridge, he also suffers mentally. He is not properly treated after the death of his mother. Thus, Jewel is also a victim of Psychological alienation in the Bundren family.

The analysis of child psychology in this novel is realistic when we observe little Vardaman who is deprived of the family care and parental love. He even does not get notice about the death of his mother; when he asks his brothers, they remain silent. Vardaman narrates:

When they get it finished they are going to put nor in it and then for a long time I couldn't say it. I saw the dark stand up and go whirling away and I said, "Are you going to nail her up in it, Cash? Cash? Cash?" I got shut up in the crib the new door it was too heavy for me it went shut I shut I couldn't breathe because the rat was breathing up all the air. I said, "Are you going to nail it shut Cash? Nail it?" (59)

The glimpse of depressed and alienated child psychology is vividly portrayed through his narration in the novel. Similarly, the dark aspect for coming generation is widely shown by the little Vardaman's declaration. On the other hand, negligence of modern parents about their duties and responsibilities towards their family life is revealed in his narration.

So, in the novel *As I Lay Dying*, different factors produce the mental stress on different members of the Bundren family. However, they become unable to avoid the



psychological tension from their mind. Effective communication, proper awareness of the mutual family relationship, jealousy, biased manner, etc are some of the elements that directly influence the role of all the characters in the family. As a result, they are compelled to be the victim of alienation that brings the turmoil in the family environment. The economic depression of the 1930s directly touches, the poor farmer because the Cotton industries were closely related with these farmers of the Southern America that brings the alienation in their psyche. The family life became the great burden for the Southern American during that period because of economic depression. At the end, the impact of modernity in this novel is one of the issues that lead the various characters toward frustration and alienation. Addie denies the word “marriage” and “motherhood” and takes the ‘isolation’ as her pride. She wants to give up the family burden and desires to liberate her life.

### **Character Analysis**

William Faulkner, in his novel *As I Lay Dying*, uses various characters to provide different insights into specific events. All the characters represent their personal motivations and feelings separately that expose the alienation within the novel. Faulkner has taken the seven characters from the same Bundren family with different individuality. Addie, Anse, Darl, Jewel, Cash, Dewey Dell and Vardaman are the major characters of the novel. Therefore, the analysis of those characters helps us to reach the conclusion that there is no unity and cooperation that invites psychological alienation in their mind.

Addie Bundren, the wife of Anse and the mother of the Bundren family is the female protagonist of the Faulkner’s novel *As I Lay Dying* who is biased, and who desires aloneness and is the representative of loveless modern mother of the twentieth Century. That’s why psychological alienation deeply affects her family. Though she is

dead for most of the novel, Addie is one of its most important characters as her unorthodox wish to be buried near her blood relatives rather than with her own family is at the core of the story. Addie, whose voice is expressed through Cora Tull's memories and through her own brief section. In the narrative, she appears to be a strong-willed and intelligent woman haunted by a sense of disillusionment. She becomes unable to perform her proper love to her husband and care for all the children. Addie, as a representative of modern woman, sees martial love and motherhood as empty concepts. She finds little value in life like her daughter Dewey Dell realizes when she is cheated by the doctor and deprived from her mother's love. In this context, death becomes a lovely one for her and she thinks her dead mother a lucky one.

The moral aspect of Addie is equally strong for the creation of alienation in the family when we analyse her personal view about morality. Theoretically, there is a clash between Cora's personal view of moral codes and good behavior and Addie's unconventional approach of her life. Cora, the neighbor of Addie, believes that Addie had never been a pure religious woman and her recollection of a series of religious meeting during which Whitefield strove with the vanity of her mortal heart shows that Addie's eccentricity is apparent to those around her. As a corpse, Addie is equally important to the novel, dividing her family as much as when she is alive.

Individual doctrine seems more essential than the duties and responsibilities of family life. Addie, who has taken the isolation as her pride, behaves with prejudiced feeling even to her own children. As a result, there emerge jealousy and alienation in her family. She is very sensitive and thoughtful woman in her responses to the world around her, she had felt within herself the first strings of sexuality. To expiate these she marries Anse but the expiation has to be paid for by the conception of Cash.

However, after Cash is born, Addie feels that at last she has had a real experience, a genuine breakdown and subsequent reformation of the walls of individual. It is at this stage that Addie begins to see that the word 'love' is quite separate from the actuality; the bearing of children is the loss of selfhood. Her rejection of this word seems rooted in her estrangement from others, and in her need to reject people in order to preserve and tap into her own solitary being. Her distrust and repudiation of words are part of her private indictment of society not just for its inauthentic existence. She is an empiricist who feels the need to break out of her 'aloneness' and to explore the meaning of many words such as 'love' and 'sin'. Her glory of 'isolation' is revealed when Cora depicts it. She comments:

. . . a lonely woman, lonely with her pride, trying to make folks believe different, hiding the fact that they just suffered her, because she was not cold in the coffin before they were carting her forty miles away to bury her, flouting the will of God to do it. Refusing to let her lie in the same earth with those Bundrens.(18)

Cora believes that she needs loneliness all the time as her pride. She so much desires alienation that even after her death she wants to be separate from her family members. Hence, the Bundren family buries her in Jefferson that is forty miles away from her home.

The biased manner, lack of mother's love and feeling of hostility creates existential crisis, frustration and alienation in Darl's mind. Basically, Addie's behaviors play the vital role for such character formation of Darl which finally makes him mad. Similarly, she is directly responsible for the emergence of jealousy between Darl and Jewel. Darl Bundren is the most complex of all the characters in *As I Lay Dying*. Nineteen of the fifty-nine sections are narrated by this man, born at the height

of his mother's disillusionment with the world and embodying her awareness of the separation between words and deeds. He is cruel and isolated.

Darl's knack of probing analysis and poetic descriptions mean that his voice becomes the closest thing the story offers to a guiding, subjective narrator. Yet, it is this same intellectual nature that prevents him from achieving the flashy heroism of his brother Jewel or the self-sacrificing loyalty of his brother Cash. In fact, it prevents Darl from believing whole-heartedly in the family's mission. Darl registers his objection to the entire burial outing by apparently abandoning his mother's coffin during the river crossing and by setting fire to Gillespie's barn with the eight-day old corpse inside.

Another consequence of Darl's philosophical nature is his alienation from the community around him. More clearly than the other characters, he carries the psychological scars in the absence of marital love. According to Cora Tull, people find Darl strange and unsettling. He is also able to understand private things about the lives of the people around him as he does when he guesses at Dewey Dell's fling with life or perceives that Anse is not Jewel's real father. At times, Darl is almost clairvoyant; as evidence by the scene when she dies other characters alienate Darl for fear that he will get too close to them and their secrets. It is perhaps this fear, more than Darl's act of arson that leads his family to have him committed to an insane asylum at the end of the novel. Darl, the weakest and least harmful member, is their worst victim. Therefore, critic Malvin Backman in his "Addie Bundren and William Faulkner" describes, "Darl is a kind of Hamlet who cannot have his mother's love, who can not act but broods on being and not-being, who is aware this world is not his world, this life his life" (76). Backman describes the depressed mood of Darl and his way of living.

Addie, gives the extreme affection and support to Jewel and rejects especially Darl especially and others. Thus, the feeling of hostility and jealousy rises in the relationship of Darl and Jewel. As a result, after the death of mother, Jewel becomes the victim of emotional isolation because of the harsh manner of his family members. Jewel Bundren is the loveliest son of Addie from her illegal husband Mr. Whitefield. He speaks very few words of his own throughout the novel and defined by his actions, as filtered through the eyes of other characters. Jewel's uncommunicative nature creates a great distance between him and other and a great deal of room exists for debating the meaning of Jewel's actions. Darl's frequent desertion of Jewel as 'wooden' reinforce the image of Jewel as impenetrable to others, and also establish a relationship between Jewel and the wooden coffin that comes to symbolize his mother. He behaves callously with his mother while she was alive but after her death, his devotion to his mother is admirable. Even as Addie lies in her deathbed, Jewel refuses to say good-bye to her, and harshly asserts his independence from her earlier on with the purchase of a horse. Jewel's actions after Addie's death show that he does care deeply for her. He makes great sacrifices to assure the safe passage of her body to her chosen resting place, agreeing even to the sale of his beloved horse. Similarly, Jewel's cold, rough spoken behavior toward the rest of his family contrasts sharply with the heroic devotion he demonstrates in his deeds. When he searches valiantly for Cash's tools after the river crossing and nearly comes with full of anger whom he believes has insulted the family.

In general, Jewel is an independent, solitary man of action and these traits put him in an antagonistic relationship with the introspective Darl. When the needs for action arise, he acts. On even rarer occasions, Jewel expresses his emotion in violence, attacking the man who he believes objected to the smell of Addie's corpse

and leaping on Darl. He shouts in anger, kill the bastard, kill the son of bitch. He is always regarded as an outsider by the rest of the family but he appears to find the bond with Addie indeed. Jewel himself seems to be at pains to emphasize the difference between himself and the rest of the Bundrens when he buys the spotted horse, an animal that partakes of his own qualities of independent spirit.

Faulkner deliberately allows Jewel to remain an enigma, as puzzling to the reader as he is to the rest of his family. Although he focuses on many of Darl's thoughts, the odd mixture of jealousy always distorts these thoughts. On the contrary, Addie's belief becomes true as her salvation. She takes Jewel in the core of her heart and declares that "He is my cross and he will be my salvation. He will save me from the water and from the fire" (156). Jewel proves the accusation of Cora Tull false that Jewel is the sin of Addie.

In *As I Lay Dying*, the father of the Bundren family Anse is psychologically, morally, economically and socially defected man where he seems inactive and irresponsible. His philosophy makes him isolated and he fails to address the role of an individual in a larger community. Selfishness is one of his motivations and he is adept at deceiving himself. Therefore, he becomes the victim of psychological alienation that leads his family life towards pathetic way. He is considered a conservative and lazy man who has been convinced that if he ever sweats, he would die. He feels jealous and annoys when his wife Addie keeps the immoral relationship with Mr. Whitefield, a minister. She does not treat him with respect as a husband rather she exploits him. As a punishment, she promises Anse to bury her forty miles away, in Jefferson, after her death. His honesty is revealed when the funeral rites end in Jefferson as Addie's wish.

Anse Bundren is the one who ends the novel with new teeth and new wife, which is quite ironic. He is the character who uses his family for personal gain. He is not heroic by any means. Some people see Anse as a comic figure, a sad clown. At the same time, others view him as a villain, able to act only from selfish motives. But to people such as Addie, he is a 'dead' person, substituting empty words for experience. The most interesting thing about Anse is the transformation he undergoes when he reaches Jefferson and has buried Addie. As he had not been in town for twelve years, it is obvious that the courtship of the second Mrs. Bundren is swiftly accomplished, taking less than a day. During that time, the usually inactive Anse is transformed into a passive whirlwind of action. The transformation is both in habit and in appearance. As Cash says, "It made him look a foot taller, kind of holding his head up, hangdog and proud too" (248).

Anse is not satisfied with Addie's behaviors and is psychologically depressed in his society. As a result, on the very day of Addie's burial in Jefferson, he marries with a woman as his revenge on Addie for depriving him of his identity during their married life. He thinks himself a luckless man without much pleasure and happiness. His communicative skill in the family is not effective; he cannot persuade anyone properly. Therefore the feeling of regression and emotional isolation gradually leads his family towards the downfall.

On the other hand, the passive observer Cash is well aware of the interrelationship within the family and his social environment. He is a carpenter and derives his philosophy from carpentry and believes that if he does things 'on the line', he will succeed. Cash is the eldest son in the Bundren family, in Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*. He suffers by breaking his leg on the bridge while crossing the coffin. He appears as a sensitive observer of the world around him.

Cash analyses the family environment very critically and finds the improper relationship among the different family members. They are full of jealousy and are emotionally alienated for him. They do not have the sense of mutual family relationship among each other. Cash's own personality is a thoughtful one. He tends to see the things in terms of good or bad workmanship, generalizing from his carpentry. "It is better to build a tight chicken coop than a shoddy courthouse" (221). It is his way of expressing disenchantment with the way the world is developing and he is very much aware of what is going on in his own immediate circle. Cash alone suspects that Anse is seeking a new wife before the lady herself appears.

So, Cash is a sound observer in the novel *As I Lay Dying* who is held back by Faulkner until the end of the text. When Darl, the chief narrator, has been removed and the story needs to be rounded off by someone, Cash is involved in the events and expresses his views about other family members openly. Instead of dwelling on or even exaggerating the oddities and grotesque features of his family as Darl does cash survives modifying them and by using the sense of balance which he inherited from Addie. However, his broken leg and chaotic family environment at the end makes him the victim of psychological alienation.

The representative of the male domination of the then society, Dewey Dell is a typical American girl who gives emphasis to the individual desires and motifs, frustration and alienation rather than the unity, cooperation and mutual family relationship in the society. At the beginning, she is deceived by her boy friend Lefe and later on by the doctor in Jefferson.

She appears to be a slow-thinking, slow-moving girl, deeply marked by her rustic heritage. Dewey Dell is intensely thoughtful, all her thoughts centered on her own problem for its exclusion. Her frustration and inner feelings are revealed when



she feels annoyed in the sense that nobody of her family members is sad in her pregnancy. For her the funeral journey has only one purpose to get rid of the unwanted child. However, for little Vardaman she shows maternal feelings. Some critics say that Faulkner identifies her with the earth and with fertility- 'a wet seed wild in the hot blind earth'.

Everyday Dewey Dell has few doubts about her own existence and thinks only on her own problem, the womb. It victimizes her more than a disease. Physically and psychologically, Dewey Dell is haunted by her pregnancy all the time. She is the only one character in this novel who is not much influenced by the death of her mother Addie. Her unmoved manner towards her mother reveals the contemplating individual relationship of American family life. She seems dull and slow-thinking girl when she decides to have intercourse with Lefe, in spite of his tricky manner. After her pregnancy, she cannot communicate effectively with her family members and suffers from the isolation. Later on, when a false doctor in Jefferson in course of making the abortion cheats her; the intense feeling of alienation deeply affected her. As a result, she takes Addie's death a lovely one for Addie that shows her frustration in life.

The mirror of child psychology, Vardaman, portrays the realistic scenario of the Bundren family. Lack of parental love, duties, responsibilities and he realizes care upon their children. Vardaman remains in confusion about his mother and he even does not notice the death of his mother. Vardaman in a sense is a tragic character who deprived of the marital love and care from the beginning of his childhood. He is an important character in this novel because as a child, he can record any event and experience in a very direct way, unmodified by present patterns of thought. He innocently speaks his inner thoughts and motivations that needs mutual family co-

operation. However, it cannot turn into reality makes him sad. Vardaman shares many of Darl's problems about identity and the nature of reality, though Darl's problems stem from thinking too deeply about these things.

Vardaman has only a few concerns in his world. The death of his mother causes him great emotional upset and throughout the novel, he continues to compare her death with the death of a fish. He is not sure about mother. He wants to avoid such confusion. He narrates:

“Jewel's mother is a horse”, Darl said.

“Then mine can be a fish, can't it, Darl?” I said.

“Jewel is my brother.

“Then mine will have to be a horse too”, I said.

“Why?” Darl said. “If Pa is your Pa, why does your Ma have to be a horse just because Jewel's is?”(90)

Being so young, he does not selectively recall what people say but remembers it in a fairly haphazard way. So, he provides the realistic issues for critics to analyze the novel. By the help of Vardaman the Southern American family's way of caring the children in the then period can be generalized. Except his sister Dewey Dell, Vardaman cannot get proper love and care which creates a sense of alienation and frustration psychologically in his mind. He neither has the feeling of jealousy and enmity with anybody nor does he commit any mistakes but mere has the childish nature. However, Vardaman becomes the victim of alienation in the Bundren family like others because of turmoil family environment.

### **Pragmatics of Alienation and Frustration**

William Faulkner as a modernist writer associates with literary modernism that began before World War I and gained prominence during the 1920s. In fact, Faulkner was greatly influenced by two of the most celebrated modernists, T.S. Eliot and James Joyce. Eliot's poem *The Waste Land* and Joyce's *Ulysses* both explored the dehumanization effects of industrialization which Faulkner employs in his *As I Lay Dying*. Modernist writers experimented with language and literary form and were concerned with the limits of expression. Most modernist authors depicted characters grappling with the loss of traditional beliefs after the destructiveness of World War I. These characters are alienated from their past and from other characters, and often suffer from an inability to communicate. Faulkner's interest in these practices and themes is obvious, especially in his experiments with narrative perspective: his focus on language and its failures, and his themes of alienation and the destruction of families in the society. In this novel *As I Lay Dying*, the application of lack of cooperation and communication gap among the different family members is Faulkner's modernist technique to create frustration and alienation.

In 1929, just before Faulkner began writing *As I Lay Dying*, the American stock market was crashed. This financial disaster ended the period of post-World War I economic expansion and marked the beginning of the great depression of the 1930s. In the rural south, however, economic hardship had been a way of life for years, especially for poor farmers. Basically, these factors affected Mississippi cotton and the farmers' financial status. Thus, they were in continuous debt. Secondly, a long-standing depression in the cotton market forced farmers to go further into debt where they could not maintain their farms and families. Finally, heavy rainfall and floods in the late 1920s nearly ruined production. These elements combined with outdated

farming methods to make already difficult conditions even worse. As such the economic burden made them frustrated.

The cultural influences of American tradition are that they do not communicate properly among each other in their family. Faulkner's use of multiple narrators underscores one of his major themes-every character is essentially isolated from the other, where the absence of communication is essential. Although the readers feel dilemma because all the characters cannot express adequately their desires among each other. Outside of Darl, nobody knows Addie and Dewey Dell's secrets through institution, the characters can only guess at the motivations, beliefs and feelings of others. When these guesses turn out to be wrong, misunderstanding ensues. As a result, their communication problems, the members of the Bundren family live alienating themselves from each other, whether willfully, unknowingly or painfully. This alienation extends to neighbors who misinterpret or simply cannot measure the family's actions. The more sensitive characters especially Addie and Darl, recognize their alienation from others. In particular, Addie is striking example of an individual who longs to transcend this isolation and stubbornly works to maintain an impenetrable individuality. So, in the lack of communication, they become unable to understand each other and fail to reveal their privacy that invites the tragic intensity in the Bundren family.

During the period of writing this novel, modernism was in the centre where the identity crisis became the major issue. So, Faulkner depicted the various characters with separate motifs to establish his/her identity that invites alienation automatically in the novel. Questions about the nature and strength of self-identity recur throughout the novel. It is through the characters of Darl and Vardaman that Faulkner explores the fragile nature of identity. Vardaman almost compulsively

defines his relationships with others, repeating “Darl is my brother”(238) and more famously “my mother is fish”(185). Through those repetitions, Faulkner articulates the development of identity as Vardaman elates to others. The absence of his mother’s love leads Darl to isolation, not only his mother’s but also from himself. He feels the absence of self-identity and expresses the differences between himself and Jewel when he says, “I don’t know what I am. I don’t know if I am or not. Jewel knows he is, because he doesn’t know that he doesn’t know whether he is or not”(73). Darl’s insights prove the existential crisis in the Bundren family. Therefore, to expose oneself in the crowded world each character tries to present with different individuality but it brings frustration and alienation in their family life.

Faulkner uses love and passion as major theme of the novel. The relationships and destinies of the characters rely heavily on love and intense emotions where the deprivation of love and avoidance of intimacy among different characters brings alienation in the novel. Emphasis on personal desire and selfish issues and rejection of communal interest become so essential that it function as the means for the emergence of isolation psychologically in the family. Therefore, it is the study of modern society and its major features where different characters project their different personalities. According to Sigmund Freud, a severe emotional trauma, such as the death of relative one, affects the unconscious part of one’s mind in many ways that are not immediately apparent to the conscious part. Equally relevant to interpreting *As I Lay Dying* is Freud’s theory of “Sublimation” which he has described as the process by which frustrated emotional energies are transformed into behaviors that are more social. As such, the anxieties in different Bundren family members compel to perform their various types of alienated manner in the society.

## CHAPTER-FOUR

### Conclusion

The essence of *As I Lay Dying* lies in the thematic issue of the sense of alienation. Depiction of poor Southern American family life after the World War I is ground of the story where many narrators narrate the description of funeral journey. It has invited different modes of criticism from the date of its publication. This novel has never failed to provide critics with adequate raw materials for their readings. As a result, various critics viewed it differently.

Psychological alienation as an essential issue is discussed historically with various views as a suggestive of the complexities and problems involved in the novel. The second chapter has worked as a set of definitions and characteristics of psychological alienation by the scholars that could be sufficient to analyze the novel for the readers. Especially, Sigmund Freud's definition takes an important place because the readers can grasp the events of the story that have already happened. The psychoanalytic perspective for the work gives an ample ground because it is a problem on lack of understanding of the individual psychology in the Bundren family. The novel *As I Lay Dying* provides enough ground to work on the psychological notion because the way the author makes the narrators tell the story is very important. As a good storyteller, William Faulkner makes the characters tell the story by employing different narrative technique through various narrators to reveal their own individual psychology differently. The story of this novel begins with the competitive arrival of Darl and Jewel towards the home where they both want to be a winner. At the same time, the prejudiced feelings of Addie towards her children are also revealed through her expressions while she is lying on the bed. The setting of remote hill of Yoknapatawpha and the poor Bundren family as well shows the essential causes to

invite the tragic adversity. On the other hand, the economic depression of the contemporary Southern America plays the vital role for the formation of such psychic tensions. Showing the different aspects of the society, the author has been able to portray the psychological status that causes alienation on human mind. Similarly, Faulkner depicts the realistic ground that if the parents are biased towards their children, the family members suffer from alienation and depression which creates the destruction in the family. That's why; the study of the psychic aspects of the character in the second chapter is quite fruitful to study the novel effectively.

The impression that the present study seeks to establish in the third chapter that is deliberately essential. The blending observation of physical and psychological condition of the characters in the novel exposes the reality among the readers. In this section, the characterization of the female protagonist Addie suggests the readers that the inefficient guardianship of the family leads it towards the tragic adversity. Faulkner's revelations of modern family relationship among different family members of Bundren family give the moral lesson of the novel. The psychic tensions like anxiety, hate and jealousy are the production of bias activities of the family that brings alienation in human mind. Thus, chaotic environment of the Bundren family is the result of alienated mentality of individuals in *As I Lay Dying*.

It is important precisely because it presents the details about the character and various circumstances of the plot. The various issues like alienation, identity crisis, love and passion, etc are widely exposed in this part. The author authentically portrays the conventional belief of the contemporary Southern America. It is so because in spite of great obstacles on the way the Bundren family cremates Addie in her birthplace Jefferson, that is forty miles away from the Yoknapatwpha hill. Faulkner's main concern to establish a sort of image among the readers is proved

through the selfishness, harsh and dominating nature of the different characters. Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* mainly focuses on the alienation and frustration of the Bundren family because of communication gap, lack of mutual relationship and impact of traditional concept upon the individuals.

Faulkner's creation of obsessive narrators with mental limitations determines the very nature of the world in which they live. The reader is able to compare these private worlds and evaluate each narrator accordingly. This study tries to show that the obsessions of Darl Bundren, Jewel Bundren and Addie's are the integral parts of the novel that they perform in course of livehood. They live in a world that simultaneously reflects their inward rage. Faulkner has created psychological atmosphere mainly to become thoroughly involved with the characters and their actions. Though, he likes to depict the psychological realism, he at the same time, creates a situation where the commentator can place himself between the reader and the action.

William Faulkner as a modernist writer influenced deeply by the dehumanizing factors of the novel. As a result, he raises the issues like identity crisis, frustration, alienation and fragmentation of the modern world. In *As I Lay Dying* Faulkner has presented various narrators for exploring and analyzing the psyche of each individual through which their inner intensity comes on the surface vividly that suggest, the actual message of the whole novel. Faulkner as an experimentalist presents the characters with the realistic images of society. However, he creates characters that reflect their personal interest, the proceedings, and in some cases, his preoccupations. He allows such characters to speak for themselves directly or to express their feelings and reactions through a neutral meditative voice. Faulkner simultaneously focuses on the physical action and psychological milieu just to expose



the inner psyche of the character before the reader. His use of distorted characterization and their environment are means of bringing psychological or inward reality to the dramatic surface.

This study may be compared to a laboratory to observe and analyze the novel for the reader. The reader must share in the creative act; he\she must know what the subject of literary research is and what sorts of issues are employed. Hence, in this study attention is directed to the powerful and unique thematic issue of characters' individual psychological alienation.

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