

Narrativization of Psychological Trauma in DeLillo's *Falling Man*

This research paper attempts to analyze the psychological traumatic experience of the protagonist in Don DeLillo's *Falling Man*. The protagonist as the victims of the terrorists' attacks witnessed the collapse of tower and revives by the assault in Twin Tower. Though the narrativizing, the narrators explore the traumatic situation of the various characters in the novel. *Falling Man* features a group of people who had survived the September 11, 2001 attacks. They experienced the painful psychological torture when they countered with terrorist assault. Here, the novel presents the traumatic psychological condition and traumatic situation of the protagonist, Keith. His psychology is time and again haunted by the terrorist attack. The characters are prone to "work through" their traumatic burden by narrativizing the past memories. Keith and Lianne have effort to develop creativity, dignity and good social standing although they face unexpected difficulties. They are surrounded by psychic instability and suffering. The research's main concern is to show how they are hopeful to live meaningful life with dignity and recognition. Hence, the text explores the death and destruction, dehumanization, alienation, the modalities of mourning of the victims.

The novel represents the terror of terrorists' attack of 9/11. Through the particular study of the protagonist, Keith traumatic situation and psychic injuries of the various others characters conceptualize the violence and terror. The study highlights the traumatic and post-traumatic situation, psychic disorder, chaos, devastation, terrorist threat that Islamic fundamentalism had haunted to the protagonist throughout the novel. This novel tries to figure out the disorder and chaos experienced by the protagonist at the attack of the World Trade Center. Hence, the

research focuses on the psychological trauma through the distorted psychology of various characters.

Keith had witnessed the fall of tower, death of his friend Rumsey with whom he worked together in the World Trade Center. Such horrible and terrific scenario of September 11 continuously traumatized the protagonist, Keith and his wife Lianne. At the same, he suffered from fragmented identity. Though Keith had passport, state-identity but he was identity less. Moreover, he does not know who he divorced several years ago. Due to the disorder and chaotic situation their life had been disturbed. Lianne had troubled in remembering the name of her son's friends and called them siblings. Due to the mental disorder and terrible situation, Justin had mispronounced Bill Lawton as Bill Laden. Keith and his family including Nina were watching TV without sound. Due to the horrible scenarios and suffering, Martin did not believe in God. He said "God used to be an urban Jew. He's back in the desert now." This portrays the suffering mind of the characters. Lianne listened music but music did not provide relief to her. She quarreled with her neighbor who plays jazz music. Such music brought her back to the past events. Her mind was shattered with many images of the attacks. She struggled to build up good social standing facing unexpected difficulties too. Thus, *Falling Man* demonstrates the complexity of trauma through the protagonist's mind. It complicates the extent of impact of September 11 (9/11) on their psyches.

Keith and Lianne's lives are badly affected by psychic disorder, chaos, and destruction and suffering mind. Through a critical analysis of unfolding events, this study aims to study psychological trauma faced by the protagonist. The major thrust of this research is to explore how the protagonist of *Falling Man* is traumatized by the various practices of dehumanization, subjugation and alienation.

Different critics have observed this text from different perspectives. Noeme Abe maintains that painful sense of numbers is projected in *Falling Man*. This dehumanization and the pervading sense of numbers echoes the numbers of grief. Abe reveals the following truth concerning this aspect of *Falling Man*:

In the post 9/11 climate, the discussion of many ethical issues, such as family, gender and the (female)body drew to a halt in the face of the strong nationalistic propaganda that tended to censor any views that did not comply with its rhetoric. The collapse of the public sphere into the private one has engendered a society in which the politic is hidden within the domestic in such a way that the dynamics of hegemony are no longer apparent. (1)

Various issues are addressed by DeLillo in *Falling Man*. From the loss of public sphere to the new dynamic of hegemony, core thematic content appeals to the readers and critics alike. The nightmares are repetitive actions of the survivor occupy the forefront of the novel.

Rosie Partington presents lots of sympathetic characters. She expresses the following remarks about sympathy-deserving characters in the novel, *Falling Man*:

It is interesting to consider whether when reading *Falling Man* we are empathizing or sympathizing with the characters, and whether or not affects our emotional response and the feeling of resonance that we experience in relation to the text. Empathy and sympathy are extremely difficult words to define, as there seems to be psychological and cognitive overlap in what people think they mean. (2)

As claimed by Partington, characters were dramatically convincing and life-like. They were really appealing to the audiences at large. They tries to identify the actual falling

man in the famous picture. Don DeLillo's representation of terrorist threat is questionable in the light of the sympathy-deserving characters.

Anne Longmuir has analyzed the text from the perspectives of Art and Terrorism. She claims *Falling Man's* preoccupation with relationship between art and terror:

DeLillo argues in this novel that terrorism seeks to influence and shape our perception of reality. . . DeLillo not only suggests that terrorists are usurping the traditional role of artist by "making raids on human consciousness" . . . Terrorism thus poses a dual threat to art: it not only assumes its cultural function, but it commandeers its technique as well. (44)

Longmuir wants to say through these lines that the text is in relation to terror and art. It shows that terrorism usurps both the traditional cultural role of art and its techniques. David Janiak's performance also depicts the relation of terror and art. Janiak appears as Falling Man from the Twin Tower after the destruction of World Trade Center reflects the art as reality.

In this way, different critics and reviewers have expounded DeLillo's *Falling Man* in different perspectives. Some critics pointed out the power of media and visual technology, some talks about painful sense of numbness and loss of sympathy and empathy. Furthermore, some critics portray the relation between terror and art in the text. But none of them examines the issues of psychological trauma in this text.

The horrible and traumatic effects of various characters were explored by the narrators in the novel. The protagonist, Keith witnessed the terrorists' attacks and survived from the awful situation. Similarly, Lianne was also the indirect victim of

the attacks. Because of the psychic disorder the characters are lacerating the painful situation of the attack. They witness thousands death body. Alienation, chaos, destruction, devastation, psychic disorder, dehumanization, terrorists' threat are the impacts of attack which explore the psychic traumatic condition to the characters. The text illustrates the suffering and fragmented as the cause of trauma in different characters lives.

Keith witnesses the September 11 devastation and struggles to cope the terrorists' attack. He escaped from the attacks and the horrible chaotic scene of WTC and his state of daze affect his psychic disorder. The novel asserts that September 11 has brought not only political, social, economical, and cultural consequences but also has caused the victims on the personal level.

The concern of this study is to analyze the novel *Falling Man* from the issue of the exploration of psychological Trauma endured by Keith and Lianne. There are accounts of torturous and traumatic effects of various events like terrorist assault, death of Rumsey and fragmented identity in the text. In the society, the characters lives in is dominated by chronic fear and persistent threat. Therefore, the objective of the study is to show how the terrorist attack has affected the psychology of the characters and how they try their best to cope with the situation.

The definition of "Trauma" is fairly broad. The term trauma was originally used to indicate to physical injuries, nowadays it usually refers to mental injury caused by emotional shock the memory of which remains repressed or unhealed. Similarly, people who have been in life-threatening situation often experienced painful and miserable circumstance afterwards remains in their mind which never escaped. Such repressed pang that brings harrowing effect to the individual can be called trauma. It has been given various descriptions at various times with various names.

Greek word “Trau-mas” or “Trau-ma-ta” means serious injury or shock to the bodily and mind as a form of violence or an accident. The concept of trauma was emerged in the twentieth century with various form of trauma; cultural, racial and psychological. Moreover, psychological trauma is the unique individual experience of an events or enduring conditions in which the individual ability to integrate his/her emotional experience is overwhelmed, to cope and leaves the person fearing death annihilation or psychosis. Different scholar mentioned psychological trauma from different point of view.

In this regard, Cathy Caruth defines the trauma in her *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma and the Possibility of History* projects.

Trauma as an overwhelming experience of sudden or catastrophic events, in which the response to the event occurs in the often delayed and uncontrolled repetitive occurrence of hallucinations of the soldier faced with sudden and massive death around him, for example, who suffers the sight in a numbed state only to relieve it late on in repeated nightmare is a central and recurring images of the trauma in our century. (181)

In this case, trauma is described as the sudden/unexpected event caused by witnessing the violence, sudden death and experienced the fear and chaos. After returning relieves the individual develop the psychic trauma on them. Eventually, the victim’s live can be associated with their personal trauma. The event repeats in flashback, nightmare and so on. Similarly Caruth concept of trauma means “wound” in Greek words often the result of an overwhelming amount of the stress that exceeds one’s ability to cope or integrate the emotion involved with the experience” (3). Though this trauma refers to a psychological rather than physical wound. The significant of witnessing violence,

human loss and chaotic situation haunt human mind is known as psychological trauma. In addition she argues about the ideas of Latency, “when trauma first takes place in uncertain, but that “the survivors’ uncertainty is not a simple amnesia; for the event returns, as Freud pointed out insistently and against their will” (6). She mentioned that trauma remains in mind and it is difficult to forget the misery and pain. The event can be repressed in the unconscious and triggered by the similar circumstances.

Kali Tal’s notion of trauma is entirely applicable in the text. The protagonist, Keith and his family suffer from the threat of terrorists’ attack. Keith and Lianne undergo with stress, agony and painful life after the devastation of September 11. He passes the traumatic condition which is indeed psychological:

Psychological trauma is direct personal experience of an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury, or witnessing an event that death, injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of another person, or learning about unexpected or violent death, serious harm, or threat of death or injury experienced by a family member or other close associate. The person’s response to the event must involve intense fear, helplessness, or horror. (87)

Dehumanization, unprecedented happenings are the impact cause of psychological trauma. The factors that cause psychic disorder are manmade as well as natural disaster. The sudden and unexpected happenings distress the lives of characters. Moreover, such event implants agony, pain and tragic experience which render psychological loss and disorder. That is why who witnesses the threat or injury hardly heals the horrible events which overcome them.

The news about the sudden death of Keith’s friend Rumsey has the direct psychological effect on him. The incident made him as astonished and repeated time

and again. Rumsey's death awares him to struggle with death from the attacks. The image of Rumsey and the death of many people haunted him frequently. The tragic event intensifies his traumatic torture. Keith faces:

He began to life, his face warm with the blood on Rumsey's shirt, blood and dust. The man jumped in his grip. There was a noise in his throat, half gasp, and then blood from somewhere, floating and Keith turned away, hand still clutching the man's belt. He waited, trying to breathe. He looked at Rumsey, who'd fallen away from him, upper body lax, and face barely belonging. The whole business of being Rumsey was in shambles now. Keith held tight to the belt buckle. He stood and looked at him and the man opened his eye and died. (243)

Keith is haunted by the premonition death of Rumsey. He frequently thought why he was unable to save his friend. At the moment, Rumsey's severe death continuously repeats in his memory. Keith suffers from the terrible attack which effect to twirl in his normal life. During the fall of Tower, Keith found Rumsey lying down in dust with blood and ashes in his body. He stood and looked Rumsey's eyes opened. The brutal incident suffers in the mind of New York citizen. Such pathetic and terrible death of Rumsey brings psychic disorder in his life.

William Cote Roger Simpson describes trauma as "a bodily injury or shock. It is an emotional shocks, often having a lasting psychic effect" (22). Here, Simpson describes it as of two types: Emotional wounds and physical trauma. Emotional wounds may afflict a person long time to the single shock that comes with an assault. Physical and emotional wounds may be the products of the horrible experience. Moreover, psychological trauma is commonly known as an emotional wounds or injury. The psychic wound is caused by sudden and unexpected happening.

In the text, Keith after the escapes from the building injured and he walks to the apartment where his estranged wife, Lianne and Justine used to live. “It was not a street anymore but a world, a time and space of falling ash and near night” (3). Keith found covered with blood and ashes. Unknowably, he found him standing at the door where his wife and son lived. Martine and Nina were talking about Keith unconscious “about the things everyone was talking about” (42). After the shock Keith remains silence. He is unable to express the experience of September 11 with his family as he witnesses the event but through the media like TV and radio they experience the incidents.

Likewise, Jon G. Allen has defined trauma in his book *Coping with Trauma: Hope through Understanding* as the overwhelming experience.

By definition, traumatic experience overwhelms us when it occurs.

Sadly, trauma does not necessarily end when the traumatic situation is long past. Many traumatized persons continue to re-experience the trauma whenever memories of the event are evoked. Along with the memories come painful emotions and sense of helplessness. (79)

Along with the characteristics of the overwhelming nature of trauma, Allen also points to the characters recurrence and re-experience of traumatic experience and painful memories. The sense of helplessness recall in his memory, Keith, the protagonist of the novel can be indicated as the victim who was traumatized by the terrorists’ assault. September 11 always haunt in the memories of Keith and Lianne.

In connection with September 11 events, Keith including Lianne, Hammad and several other characters are mourning for the loss and pathetic harmony of terrorists’ hit the WTC. By observing no more option from horrible assault, they undergo the psychic traumatized and spend their time as semi-professional poke

player. Keith after the event feels alone. "He stood and looked and felt something so lonely he could touch it with his hand" (27). Keith seemed as if he had lost his feeling as human by wondering if he had been transforming to be like a human robot. Certainly, as a result he seems traumatized. Moreover, Hammad as Islamic appearance wore bomb jacket. He always thinks as nonwhite, willing to die for Islamic fundamentalism. DeLillo portrays him as the terrorist in the novel whose life, mission and death is the signature to the terrorist attacks. But Hammad dramatizes tension between normalcy and cultivated hatred. "He to fight against the need to be normal" (58). As if Hammad through spend hedonist life as terrorist, he wants to back as in his normal life and spend his remaining life with family. This show the nonwhite immigrants psyche towards the white society after the terrorist attack, the complication in life is captured due to the rejection psyche.

In addition, the text brought not only social, political, economical factors but also psychological level. Keith thinks "a way to stop being double in himself, trailing the taut shadow of what is said" (161). DeLillo shows Keith life as confusion. In response to other people, he has witnessed the death of several people that brings psychologically distress on him. His life ruins before and much more complicated after the terrorist attack. So far, Keith life depicts the reality of what and how survivors experiences during and after the assault. He wonders who he is and how he is doing different tormenting and complicated life due to the nasty experience of September 11.

Falling Man represents the psychological trauma faced by various characters. The novel centers on the shocking and lacerating experience of watching the destruction of World Trade Center in September 11 terrorist assault. They are prone to "work through" their traumatic burden through narrativizing the past event. It hovers

on the misery, agony, hardships and hurdles faced by Keith and his family in New York. Keith is the direct witnesses of the terrorists' attack; due to the assault he undergoes various misery and pathos in his personal life. Lianne is the indirect victim of attack so far she also has the traumatic and post traumatic impacts of September 11 incidents. The text begins with thenarrativization of the traumatic situation of World Trade Center attack. The imaginary terrorist named Bill Lawton narrates the situation of the events as well Keith. Thus, the research primarily focuses traumatic and post traumatic pang and agonies of the protagonist and his family. The painful and suffering of the varied situations to the American coupled Keith and Lianne aroused the fragmented and struggle to recognize their identity and self. *Falling Man* depicts the state of disorder and chaotic circumstances in New York. The series of event recall the characters again and again. To overcome through the traumatic whelms their effort to develop creativity, dignity; career and good social standing faced unexpected difficulties. Keith and Lianne struggle to build up independent midstand non conformist out look to halt as her marital relationship verges on divorce. Surrounded by psychic instability and various setbacks, they hope to live meaningful life with dignity and recognition.

Caruth puts forward the psychological trauma theory, deals with the practical side of the psychic trauma. She proposes that "trauma compels us to imagine that traumatic events do not simple occur in time. Rather they facture the very experience of time for the person to whom they happen." As Caruth stresses in her *Unclaimed Experience* makes the following point about trauma: Trauma is not located in the simple violent or original event in a individual's past, but rather in the way that it's very unassimilated nature the way it was precisely not known in the first instance returns to haut the survivor later on" (4). At this point, Caruth identifies that trauma as

a momentous shock which victims experienced pain and suffering after passing of time. It is not 'repression' but 're-experiencing' of the agony and distress. She further describes that "psychic trauma involves intense personal suffering but is also involves the reorganization of relieve that most of us have not begun to face." However, trauma is not fully recognized or known but imposes itself in the unconscious. Such psychic disorder can be manifested repeatedly in our words, nightmares and even repetitive action of the victims or survivor. After the destruction his relation with his family seems familiar but somehow he feels strange due to his gap with them. It also shows his traumatic situation to be close with them. "Keith feels nothing seems familiar, being here, in his family again, and he feels strange to himself" (5). In the text, the protagonist, Keith, Lianne and Justine had faced directly or indirectly the assaults. They are the victims of trauma. DeLillo's *Falling Man* depicts that "He tried to tell himself he was alive but the idea was too obscure to take hold" (6). Here, Keith after the collapse of the tower unknowingly reached to the apartment of this estrange wife. At the moment, standing by the door, he tries to convey he was alive but he was unable to tell. He was victimized by the attacks. He attempts to find his way from what was happening around him. Lianne and her mother, Nina indicates the traumatic circumstances of Keith escaping and survival, as well as the repetitious conditions of the terrorists' attacks on World Trade Center. Lianna says "But when the tower fall, "I know" "when this happened" "I know" "I thought he was dead" and Naina replies "so did I" and she adds "so many watching. Thinking he's dead, she's dead. "I know" "watching these building fall" first one then the other, I know" her mother said" (11). Following the course of the text, the life of Keith and Lianne had changed and there is no any chance to return to the previous normalcy. The effect of initial shocks and traumatic event, and experienced the traumatic injury into a long period aftermath

haunted them. The picture of Keith traumatically experiences how the shock relieves him from dead recall through his words and conversation. When the planes hit the towers Keith witnesses the thousand panic people who were escaping for their lives. Keith victim as well as witness the death of his friend, Rumsey, he realizes the horrible happening and escape towards the apartment of his ex-wife. The condition of Keith was witnessed by Lianne, she thought he was dead. These evidences show that Keith Naina and Lianne realize the terrible events and completely unconscious due to the reactions of the attacks which brings them the symptoms of psychological traumatic experiences.

Caruth, in addition describes psychological trauma increased by the violence. She noticed that the study and treatment of trauma continue to face the crucial problem of how to help relieve suffering and truth of reality of survivor. She states that the pathologies cannot be defined by the event itself. Caruth in her *Re-capturing the past* opines:

Pathologies of memory are characteristics features of post-traumatic stress disorder. (PTSD) These range from amnesia for part or allof that traumatic event to trunk dissociation in which large realms of experience or aspects of one's identity are disowned. Such failures or recall can paradoxically coexist with the opposite intruding memories and unbided repetitive image of traumatic event. (156)

The traumatic event recalls survivors at the cost of willed memory. The ability of the victims to recover the past suffering and pain is closely and paradoxically tied up in trauma. The victims return in flashbacks, an overwhelming experience that has been obstructed by the late repression but an event itself constituted. Here, beyond the loss

of precision, there is another disappearance, the loss precisely of the events and catastrophes. Lianne looks at Keith and:

He tried to play ball trick, using the right undamaged hand, “to flip the ball onto the back of the hand and jerk the arm forward propelling the ball backwards along the forearm before knocking it into the air with his elbow and then catching it backhanded, she saw man, she’d never known before.(59)

In the above, Lianne describes Keith who seems totally different aftermath of terrorists’ destruction. He is fully new person that Lianne never ever known. After the assault, Lianne noticed the changing behavior of Keith; her husband .He mostly wastes his time playing ball sticks and poker. The impacts of attacks directly impose in his personnel life.Keith is not able to talk about his traumatic experience. So, he spends in leisure time less with family.Keith is not able to talk about his own experiences.So frequently visit Florence and both shares their experiences:

They could talk about these things only with each other, in minute and dullest detail, but it would never be dull or too detailed because it was inside them now and because he needed to hear what he’d lost in the tracings of memory. (90)

With the encounters, Keith and Florence try to get control of their traumatic events. Florence tries to reconstruct memories by narrative the event. In desperate attempts to control the past, they start to continue their affair. The physical possession attempt to master their traumatic event embodied through Florence.

Because of his mental disorder he wants Company with whom he feels comfortable and shares his painful experience. Keith therefore has extra marital relation with Florence Given, a survivor of attacks. DeLillo also displays Keith’s new

double identities when he simultaneously establishes relationships with Lianne, his estranged wife and Florence, a survivor of 9/11 attacks. At some point, DeLillo presents:

Again, This different life is seen when Keith starts his new job as a semi-professional poker player, he becomes more part-time husband as well a part-time father. He goes home occasionally, performing his duty as a husband and a father, “home-cooked food, but was lost at times for something to say. There was no language; it seemed, to tell them he spent his days and nights. (197)

After the destruction, Keith's life begins with his family whom he left alone. He returns back with his estranged wife and son Justin. He spends his time with family only physically not psychologically. Though he was with his family but thinks about Florence and wants to know her condition. Lianne found him totally different. He never speaks and shares his problem and daily routine. For his son and wife, he was part-time father and husband respectively. Mostly he spends his time as a poker player. From these activities it is proved that Keith has a psychic disorder and somehow wants to show to get rid of the past memories but it haunts him time and again. DeLillo narrates that “A single suitcase, that was all and birth certificate, his passport, checkbooks and a few other documents, the state papers of identity” (27).

Caruth defines psychic trauma as a wound inflicted upon the mind that breaks the victims' experience of time self and the world and that cause great emotional anguish in the individual. According to Caruth:

Trauma is generally understood as wound or external bodily injury in general. It is also defined as a “mental condition caused by severe shock, especially when the harmful effects last for a long time. In its

later uses, particularly in the psychiatric literature, the term 'trauma' is understood as a wound inflicted not upon the body but the mind. (124)

Here, Caruth emphasizes the meaning of trauma from physical to psychical. When the victims faced the situation that enters to their psyche and it overwhelms them, it cannot be assimilated in mental process. The different form of trauma that researcher addresses is emotional injury and sudden as well as unexpected mental suffering. The same as Caruth about the theory has been applied in the text that DeLillo's characters were not only physically sufferer but also psychologically traumatized. Such reaction is normally protective. Shock is unexpected, immediate and confusion for emotions which makes disoriented.

Falling Man begins with the depicting the horrible incident faced by Keith walking down the street soon after the hijacked the planes by al-Qaeda terrorist, had crashed world trade center. In spite of this Keith managed to alive. "Confused and wounded there was glass in his faced and hair, marbled bolls of lights and blood" (3)

DeLillo portrays the horrible and chaotic situation of Keith during the terrorists' attacks. Many people have got pathetic death and running here and there holding suitcase. Everywhere there seems smoke and ash. Keith witnessed the panic and pathetic condition; he was the direct witnesses the suffering. DeLillo in addition after the attacks, Keith and Lianne's life was full of psychic injury. "This was the world"(3).Here due to the brutal attacksthe western, urban reality is brutally replaced by a primary struggle for survival.Because of being traumatized Lianne and Keith's life changed into no normalcy. The state of unconscious is demonstrated by Keith through his past memory. "They walked down, thousand, and Keith was there with them. He walked in a long sleep, one sleep and then the next" (243) Showing the state of Keith in a deep sleep, he was walking physically but psychologically absent.

Psychological disorder and post traumatic stress was caused by the psychic separation with his closer people. The trauma of the incident is revealed when he attempts to escape the scene.

After the terrible hit of the tower Keith was real witnesses of the incident. Similarly, Florence was also the survivor of the attacks. Keith develops the extra marital relation with Florence. After that he always recalls the conversation and tragic event repeatedly about the scattered bodies. Keith wants to share the traumatic experience with Florence:

They took erotic pleasure from each other but this is not what sent him back there. It was what they know together, in the timeless drift of the long spiral down and he went back again even if these meetings contradicted what he'd lately taken to be the truth of his life, that it was meant to be lived seriously and responsibly, not snatched in clumsy fistfuls. (137)

Here, Keith wants to stay with Florence. He had dilemma where to live with his wife, Lianne or girlfriend, Florence. He imagines he needs in his new life with son and wife. Keith perceives the fragmented life due to his psychic disorder as the impact of attacks. Keith walking with absent minded, thinking Florence. He thinks about the affair with Florence. "He was still back the deep shared self, down through the smoke and then here again to safety and family, to the implication of one's conduct. (157)

The above line shows the empty mind of Keith. Here, Keith has changed due to 9/11 attacks. The contradictory and conflict arouses in his mind. He is feeling that his life in doubling may put in a plight relating to after 9/11. Through the experience Keith coped and suffers through the complication of trauma and post traumatic disorder.

Dominick LaCapra, another major trauma theorist, distinguishes between acting out and working through. Acting out is pathological and repetitive and forces the victim to revisit the moment of the crisis. The routine is going back can be a mental process, which means that the survivor will re-experience his/her trauma in nightmares or in day time delusions and flashbacks. As in the theory Keith's act of often recalling the death of Rumsey can be interpreted as acting out. He is haunted out by the scene of the fall of the tower and at the meanwhile he suddenly walked towards the apartment of his estranged wife Lianne's apartment projects the survivor from the attacks. Working through on the other hand is concerned with the overcoming the post-traumatic effects. The traumatized victim needs to gain distance for his/her experience if they want to be distinguish between past, present and future. LaCapra, points out that acting out is intimately related to working through, and working through does not mean that victims will be to heal or change completely. He argues:

Since, working through it itself an articulatory practice that counteracts the compulsive effects of post-traumatic symptoms without pretending to achieve full mastery or total conscious dissolution of past trauma, it is virtually bound up with social and political action in the present, including the attempt to create institutional of conditions and norms that further desirable forms of social bonding, the viable binding of anxiety, and the integration of effect and knowledge, including empathic or compassionate relation to others.(15)

LaCapra is trying to emphasize that working through is an articulatory practice or traumatic situation. It halts for the resolution of the past trauma. If the victims is traumatic by the incident s/he through the working through tries to heal the past event. In working through, the person or victims tries to gain critical distance on a

problem to be able to distinguish between past, present and future. In this sense, working through is an effective manner or practice that is used in order to reduce psychological condition.

In the text, DeLillo states that, “he heard the sound of the second fall, or felt it in the trembling air, the north tower coming down, and a soft awe of voices in the distance. That was him coming down, the north tower” (5). Keith had intimacy with the tower. He was not only the direct witness but also has deep connection with northern tower. The loss memory regain to the victims. She wanted to stay with Keith focused one thing following sensibly upon another. There were moments when she wasn't talking so much as fading into time, dropping back into some funneled stretch of recent past”(127). The survival mourns in the loss of his nearest. Some victim's narratives the whole traumatic and some go towards the sophistication.

Keith and Lianne overwhelmed by the terrorists' attacks and aftermaths, Keith returns into the post-traumatic experiences and mourn all the time for his friend, Rumsey and several pathetic dead bodies seen after the collapse of tower. Throughout the story Keith talks about Rumsey whom he is not able to revive. *Falling Man* is the unending suffering and agony to humankind. It arouses the loss of motivation and result of traumatizing and dehumanizing. However, “Lianne had troubled in remembering their names and called them sibling and soon the name stuck” (7). Here, Lianne is unable to remember the name of her son's friends. Due to the suffering and horrible situation she forget the name. She had also faced the pathetic condition of assault. The Problem to remember the names portrays the psychic disorder in the victims. *Falling Man* through Lianna presents the chaotic situations of the victims who undergo the psychological trauma. Furthermore, Lianna found Rumsey in the hospital. Lianna describes the condition of Rumsey after the terrorist attack. She

opines that “. . . the memory was not the suppressed or the substance hadn't taken effect yet, a dream, a walking image whatever it was, Rumsey in the smokes” (10). Here, Rumsey becomes the real victim of the world trade center. The miserable and aimless life of the characters enables the researcher to notice the psychological trauma. From the attacks, Rumsey who was near to Keith and working in the world trade faced horrible situation. Things began to fall, one thing and then another, things singly at first, coming down out of the gap in the ceiling, and he tried lifting Rumsey out of the chair. Then something outside, going past the window. Something went past the window, and then he saw it. First it went and was gone and then he saw it and had to stand a moment staring out at nothing, holding Rumsey under the arms (242). At the moment Rumsey have to leave his nearby people who have to bear the traumatic and pathetic condition and dehumanizing of the terror. In the text, narrator even to, acted out trauma, Keith and Lianne were still haunted by their past traumatic situation and never recover and overcome through it.

In the text, *Falling Man*, LaCapra's notion of acting out and working through of trauma is undoubtedly seen in the characteristics of different characters. The event of September 11 2001 shocked the world. DeLillo's through the text has struggled to portray adequately the effect that the event had on ordinary people. Such horrible event like blood and light, trembling air, giant earthquake as the collapse tower, being as poke player, extra marital relation, wander in the empty room, jump of the children shows the fall of tower, symbol of bread and jihad, death of close friend and so on traumatized psychologically. The suffering and agony can be expressed and indulged through work through.

The text *Falling Man* shows the direct and indirect reality of what the survivors have experienced during and after the attacks, and the complication of

trauma. *Falling Man* reproduces the traumatic events in the survivor memory. The several characters try to express what they experienced aftermath of terrorist assaults which create difficulties and destroy one's identity. But after working through trauma, victims want to get away from traumatic past which is either as a burden or frustration to construct the future. The past memory of Keith's sufferings makes him traumatic throughout his life. The frustration and distress become the outcomes of psychic turmoil. According to LaCapra when victims are traumatized, its impacts cannot be healed completely. It can be found for a long period of time. The victims cannot be mentally fit because of his/her painful past memories. It always hints the victims.

LaCapra writes:

Victims of trauma tends to relive occurrences or at least on their present existences intrude on their present existence, for example nightmares or in flashbacks or in words that are compulsively repeated and that does not seem to have their ordinary meaning because they are taking on different connotations from another believe that people ...I also believe that people who have been severely traumatized, it may be impossible to fully transcend acting out the past. (143)

Here, La Capra describes the nature of trauma. The traumatic experience comes into the mind in the form of nightmares and in words. Such pain and suffering have been severely traumatized and remain as it in the unconsciousness. The nasty incident and suffering remain and make the victims traumatize.

The events that occurred on September 11 gradually change the mental condition of Keith. The boundaries between past, present and future vanish and Keith seems to live in a timeless existence. Here, the memory of suffering of attacks haunted Keith after the years.

Things came back to him in hazy visions, like half an eye staring.

These were moments he'd lost as they were happening and he had to stop walking in order to stop seeing them"(243).

To maintain the traumatic past he comes in contact with Florence. Keith and Florence feel comfortable with their company. The confrontation between exemplifies an importance aspect of trauma.

Similarly, ends with the description of Keith back in tower, living the horror of the event again. He is finding more difficult to distinguish between past, present and future. He began to think into the day, in to the minute. It was being here, alone in time, that made this happen, being away from routine stimulus, all the streaming forms of office discourse" (65). Keith, by the consequences of the events fading boundaries between past present and future, his steam of thought tangled up. He was trapped between his past and future and at the same time struck in the present. Therefore, Keith is trying to make his way to be out of the tower

Moreover, psychic trauma affects the memory even after the incident takes place. The victims by experiencing such familiar events also get traumatized in their life. By resist out the trauma by working through because of what might almost be termed fidelity to trauma, a feeling that one must somehow keep faith with it. The situation may be remaining in unconscious as trauma. Dominick LaCapra in *Writing History, writing trauma*, LaCapra describes the concept of acting out and working through:

These traumatized by extreme events, as well as those empathizing with them, may resist working through because of what might almost be termed a fidelity to trauma a feeling that one must somehow keep faith with it. Part of this feeling may be the melancholic sentiment that,

in working through the past in a manner that enables survival or reengagement in life one is betraying... (22-23)

LaCapra says that psychological trauma resists working through. The desire or tendency of relieve through horrible situation can be empathized through the different manners by the victims .The victims involve in mourning and derived towards isolation as well. The trauma s/he endures as a result of theses life changing events cause a drastic change in the personality of victims.Trauma in a person can be triggered by any given number of events, and its severity depends on the catastrophe that has befallen them. A traumatized person is unable to get past the painful memories of the tragedy that has befallen him or her, and this shatters the individual's sense of Security and peace.

DeLillo's *Falling Man*, strongly shows the trauma and post-traumatic experience through the life of victims in the text. Throughout the text "beard" was pronounced more than nineteen times which also presented the psychic disorder of the character by observing Hammard and beard man. The narrators explain, "They were all growing beards, one of them even told his father to grow a beard. Men came together flat on Marienstrasse, some to visit, others to live, men in and out all the times, growing beards"(56).The narrators explain the beard man more times throughout the whole text. Here, beard is characterized as muslim community .The hatred towards Muslim was symbolically shown through the beard of a man. Hammard and Amir were represented as terrorists in the text. Hammard wore dirty clothes and had beard which symbolized the twisted, hypocritical and corrupt nature of beard man which determined shiver Islam down to beard crumbs for birds. Moreover, when his identity was regained by him after the interaction with Keith, he felt distress and haunt with traumatic psychology. He was represented as the non

white who cannot go back to his normal life. Muslim immigrants like Hammad and Muhammad are the target of hatred towards white American society. It shows the unconscious threat of terrorism. By the beard Hammad and Muhammad was compulsively repeated in the psychic of the victims in the text.

GadibBenezer is another trauma theorist who marks out relationship of trauma and life. Benezer shows the haunting experiences and episode of trauma in the victims. A trauma victim was haunted by the internal and external reality, such reality clash in their life and guilt, shame cause them various hindrance in their life. Benezer explained the concept:

The concept of trauma does not have a straightforward definition. It is used by psychologists, psychoanalysts and researchers in a variety of meaning [...] for the purpose of this article suffices it to say that psychoanalysts and psychologists use the term to denote two meanings: first, an event which happened in the external world, [...] it was subjectively experienced. The external and internal reality is put together through the common reference to a traumatic state or situation which is their nexus. (54)

Traumatic events create a multifaceted complex of reactions, which even are contradictory at any times. Traumatic experience is very personal. It focuses victims to enables to shares his/her intimate experiences through guilt, shame which are not easy to express with other. It also enables the victim to reconstruct the meaning of traumatic experiences. Such event changes their appearance.

For Keith, the boundary between what is real and what is not, is disappearing. The hyperreality of the casino is shown in Keith's observation of the artificial waterfall in his hotel. After Keith was confronted with this Real, he tried to fit into

reality again, searching for ways to get control over his traumatized mind. However, Keith's inability to put his traumatizing experience into words, confronted him with the limits of language. Since language is one of the basic tools that help the conversion of the Real into reality, he can no longer find his way in this Reality. He will eventually live his life in the hyper real world of casinos.

Keith stared into the waterfall, forty yards away. He realized he didn't know whether it was real or simulated. The flow was unruffled and the sound of falling water might easily be a digital effect like the waterfall itself. Keith asks his poker friend, Terry Cheng, about the waterfall, but he says that it's not something we're supposed to think. (203-4)

Here, waterfall is a simulacra in this hyper real world. It is an image of an object from reality, but deprived of its malignant qualities. Instead, it excels the original in that it looks and sounds better than a real waterfall. It is not only how he spends his time, it is just as much where he spends his time that creates the bleak atmosphere that surrounds Keith's life. He is living his life in the hyper real world of casinos. The poker games are the only thing that is left in his life, but his life has slipped out of reality and into the hyper real. In this world, the element of chance is reduced to card games, horse races and slot machines.

The persons in trauma are miserably haunted by depressive inclination, identity problem, shame and embarrassment. Kathleen Miriam pointed about traumatic catastrophe:

A traumatic event is an event threatens injury shock, terror or helplessness. Trauma refers to both the experience of being harmed by an external agent as well as the response to that experience. Youth who experience trauma also experience emotional harm or physical trauma

which, if left untreated, can have a significant impact. Trauma typically exists along a spectrum which ranges from global to individual. (13)

Simply, trauma involves repeated traumatic incidents occurring over a period of times. It generally refers to a single events and leads to posttraumatic distress.

Usually, PTSD refers to the sporadic outburst of hidden trauma trace. Where complex trauma leads to a deeper and determined situate of change. Such changes involve emotional deregulation, dysfunctional as well as physical harm. Early researchers noted that spotlight to trauma leads to faction feelings of helpless, disorder and change in behavior. Such types of symptoms exist personally and additionally risk occurs globally.

Keith was divorced husband to Lianne. After the terrorist attacks he unknowingly reached at the apartment of Lianne where she shared apartment with her mom, Nina. After the event there seems somehow good relationship between Keith and Lianne. It is difficult to Liannato survive as a middle class single woman to rear her son without the help of husband. She everything takes care of her traumatized husband who has once left her.

There was serious work to do on the book she was editing, for a university press [...] There was definitely that. She wondered what the kid would make of the mango chutney she'd bought [...] And there was this, the taxis in broad ranks, three or four deep, speeding toward her from the traffic light [...] There was that, and Keith in the shower this morning. (22)

Moreover, Lianne's pressure and responsibilities of single mother after attacks raise the responsibility to take care of her traumatized husband. Though Lianne was not the

real witness of the attacks but she seems suffers from the events of Falling Man. Unconsciously, Lianna's emotional situation revival encounters with Falling Man. She remembers the patient whom her father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Rather than facing senile dementia he chose to kill himself. Given the fact that her father's suicide happened a long time before the novel begins, it is hard to determine the exact impact this has on her life. Nevertheless, the frequent recurrence of her father's suicide in the story indicates that the event keeps controlling her life in many ways. What is remarkable in Lianne's story is the element of symbolization. Symbolization in this context would be described as an act or object that stands for unconsciously in the mind. "This was too near and deep, too personal. All she wanted to share was a look, catch someone's eye, see what she herself was feeling" (163). Lianne for the second time encounters with Falling Man, David Janiak Where she needs to share her traumatic experiences. Throughout the novel Lianne was in search of people to shares her experience of life. Unfortunately, the Alzheimer patients are the only people who are ready to listens her pain. Her story is bound to be forgotten. Keith is locked in the inaccessibility of his trauma while Lianne desperately flees into other people's reactions.

After the extensive analysis and interpretation of Don DeLillo's *Falling Man*, the research demonstrates the struggle and cope of characters throughout the text. Though the images of protagonist, Keith DeLillo shows the psychological traumatic distress and chaotic consequences were visibly draws in the novel. The core finding of his research is that when Keith struggle to change his self life and complication resulted from the assault can be cope through the narrativization of trauma. Keith and Lianne struggle as they are exposed to the September 11 attacks.

DeLillo through the different characters like Keith, Lianne, Justine, Martin and other various minor characters portrays the terrific scenario of September 11. Keith witnesses the scenario of September 11 who escapes from the brutal assault. He is steadily traumatized and suffers from fragmented identity. Keith was haunted by anxiety, psychic disorder and purposelessness; he often prefers to live in seclusion. He flights with guilt, fear and increasing premonition of emptiness. The text revolves with the shame, guilt, psychic instability and various setbacks in the characters mind.

Falling Man features a group of people who had survived the 9/11 attacks and shock as well as horror they went through in its aftermaths. The text hovers around the traumatic and post-traumatic situation of the characters aftermath of devastation and destruction.

Falling Man, throughout the novel, presents the characters like Keith and Lianne who watch and struggle to cope and accept September 11 damage. By the end of the novel, both Keith and Lianne's lives are badly affected as a result of their trauma. There is indeed no return to normalcy. The text demonstrates the complexity that extends of the impacts of 9/11 in their psyches. The lack of moderation and self restraint lead to the disintegration of an individual's role in the society. Though the character, Don DeLillo represents the post traumatic situation, stress and disorder which draw alienation, human loss and chaos in society. The novel maintains critical distance from the shocking and lacerating experience of watching the horrible attacks.

The research highlights the notion of acting out and working through of trauma propounded by Dominick LaCapra. For him, acts out of trauma the victims unable to forget his past memories; experience is repeated as I was fully exacted and indulges in the victims' life. Though the victim exists in present as he/she is fully in the past where the event held. Here, Keith was the witness of the brutal attacks. He

was psychologically haunted by the images of the attacks. Such horrible event like blood and light, trembling air, giant earthquake as the collapse tower, wander in the empty room jump of the children symbolizes the fall of tower, symbol of bread traumatized psychologically. Moreover, working through trauma, the victim tries to gain critical distance on the problem and to be distinguishing between past, present and future. It tries to lesson past trauma. However, Keith wants to be poker player and always think about Florence who was also the survivor of the terrorists attack in WTC. Keith lives become double whether to live with his wife and son or continue his extra martial relation with Florence. But in the text, DeLillo, success to presents with working through trauma.

Keith spent his time with family in the apartment of his wife. Though there was no more good relation with his wife, Lianne, he struggled to live his remaining life with them. After the brutal assault he escaped from WTC, he realized his traumatic situation, struggle with hindrances for self-independence and nonconformist outlook. Lianna was a freelance editor who leaded a writing group for early stage Alzheimer's patients at a community center in East Harlem. She was also preoccupied with her own attempts at willed amnesia after 9/11. Justin enjoyed with his friends with his father's binocular for the heels of attack. Several characters like Nina, Martine maintains distance from the memory of attacks to get rid of their psychic distress. Thus, Don DeLillo novel *Falling Man* is set at New York during and after the attacks of September 11. The novel neither has a real beginning or end, nor does it follow a chronological order. It rather consists of various which together form a picture of the reaction to and handling with the events of September 11 in order to reconstitute a sense of safety within characters.

The September 11 incident does not offer a coherent or definite picture of the event but marks the scene of mourn and loss. Thus, the text highlights the experience of the traumatic effect, exploring the dimension of past memory of the World Trade Center attacks. The trauma is somehow lesser by the narrator through the work of narrativization the real event. Hence, the text from 'working through' and 'acting out' tries to show the traumatic condition of the characters and the way they try to come in the normal situation

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