

Abstract

The study of trauma in different literary works, especially novels and movies, is interesting to all researchers. The reason for this is that expressions and visual effects, that are used by writers and directors, are presented in an attractive way for showing the effect of traumatic experience upon the traumatized characters. Trauma is a term used to describe the psychological and behavioral symptoms that afflict an individual by experiencing a traumatic event. This study tries to focus on a specific type of trauma which is called traumatic loss or traumatic grief. Trauma theory is used to shed light on how traumatic events are reflected in literature, historical texts, and movies by analyzing expressions of loss and grief. The thesis adapts Michelle Balaev's pluralistic trauma theory as an innovative approach to analyze traumatic loss thematically and technically in *All Is True* (2018) by the British writer, Ben Elton and in *Hamnet* (2020) by the Irish-British writer, Maggie O'Farrell. In discussing Shakespeare's life, none of scholars trace how his son Hamnet died. Although the novel and the movie are two different artistic mediums, they are historical fictions that imagine the reason behind Hamnet death. Hence, the thesis uses the analytical method to analyze traumatic loss in Ben Elton's movie *All Is True* and Maggie O'Farrell's novel *Hamnet* and to show its effect upon Shakespeare and his family.

Keywords: Traumatic loss, grief, Balaev, pluralistic trauma theory, analytical method, death

Acknowledgements

The first praise and gratitude are due to **Allah** whose graces and blessings are countless. He gave me the ability and patience to submit this thesis. I hope it will be knowledge to benefit from.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks and deepest gratitude to my supervisors: **Prof. Mohammad Al-Hussini AbuArab** and **Assoc. Prof. Sherine Mostafa El Shoura**. I am deeply indebted to **Prof. Mohammad Al-Hussini AbuArab** for illuminating me with love of literature. He is not only a supervisor; he is a father who gives me countless advice and valuable comments. I am also extremely grateful to **Prof. Sherine Mostafa El Shoura** for her support and encouragement. She truly teaches me the meaning of humanity with her kind treatment. Indeed, without their academic observations and generous support, this study would not have been brought to light.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to **Prof. Hesham Hassan**, the head of English department in Benha University and the professor of linguistics for guiding me throughout my academic path. His brilliant knowledge contributes to get this thesis done as it should be.

I am also grateful to **AUC School of Continuing Education (SCE)** for inspiring me to research in the field of trauma studies. In one of an unforgettable

session within its Oral Communication course, I first heard about the meaning of trauma. This made me interested in studying trauma until now.

Special thanks are due to **my uncle Abdullah Alkoshashy**, may Allah bless his soul and **Eng. Ahmed Hussein Al-Toukhy** for purchasing the original text of Maggie O'Farrell's novel *Hamnet* from London in order to document the page numbers of the quotations that are taken from the novel to be analyzed in the thesis.

Lastly, I would be remiss in not mentioning my family, especially my parents. Their beliefs in me have kept my spirit and motivation high during this process. I would like to thank my father and my mother for their encouragement and emotional support.

List of Figures

No.	Figure	Page Number
1	Trauma theory diagram	33
2	<i>Hamnet's cover</i>	65
3	Red plum tree	65
4	Grief is love	74
5	Shakespeare's father-son relationship in relation to traumatic loss diagram	76
6	The portrait of William Shakespeare at the beginning of <i>All Is True</i> movie	77
7	Fictionalizing William Shakespeare's standing during the fire of the Globe Theatre from <i>All Is True</i> movie	78
8	Shakespeare's standing in front of the lake with Hamnet's poems	81
9	Shakespeare's standing in front of Hamnet's grave	81
10	Hamnet's grave from <i>All Is True</i> movie	82
11	Hamnet's suicide in the Greenwood pond from <i>All Is True</i> movie	84

No.	Figure	Page Number
12	Ophelia’s suicide from “Ophelia, Gender and Madness”	84
13	Burning Judith’s poems from <i>All Is True</i> movie	86
14	The parish register of Holy Trinity church, Stratford-upon-Avon from <i>All Is True</i> movie	87
15	The parish register of Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon from “Parish Register Entry”	87
16	Shakespeare cries for his dead son from <i>All Is True</i> movie	90

Table of Contents

No.	Content	Page Number
1	Abstract	---
2	Acknowledgements	---
3	List of Figures	---
4	Introduction	I
5	Chapter One: Traumatic Loss and Trauma Theory	1
6	Chapter Two: A Thematic Analysis of Traumatic Loss in <i>Hamnet</i> and <i>All Is True</i>	35
7	Chapter Three: A Technical Analysis of Traumatic Loss in <i>Hamnet</i> and <i>All Is True</i>	64
8	Conclusion	91
9	Notes	96
10	Works Cited	98