



An Analysis On Portrayal Of Relationship Intimacy In Taslima Nasrin's French Lover

Napolean Joseph^{1*}, Dr. K. N. Sharmila²

¹Ph.D., Research Scholar, Department of English, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Chidambaram.

Email: napolean14joseph@gmail.com 8608601540

²Research Supervisor, Department of English, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Chidambaram.

Email: shermilanatarajan@gmail.com 9942315666

Citation: Napolean Joseph, (2023) An Analysis On Portrayal Of Relationship Intimacy In Taslima Nasrin's French Lover, *Educational Administration: Theory and Practice*, 29(4), 1528-1530

Doi: 10.53555/kuey.v29i4.6474

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Man is the unifying term for both male and female. Man should not be alone 'And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.' – Genesis 2:18. Versatile personalities, great thinkers, even normal people say an individual should not be alone. Someone like friend, husband, wife or any relative should accompany him or her in the journey of life. It is up to the individual to choose the time and the person when he or she should be accompanied. This saying doesn't mean that relationship, private relationship, marital relationship should be with the same gender. Certain relationship should be avoided and should not be developed. The paper focus on bisexual and lesbian relationships are happening just for the sake of ecstasy, like an addiction. Deep thoughts will be transformed in to action, says Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, our thoughts in a relationship will evolve it even will get broken after sometime. Intimacy grows in a relationship and so people stay and stand for each other in their difficult situations. Here in Taslima Nasrin's *French Lover*, the relationship of married couple *Nilanjana Mandal (Nila)* and her husband Kishanlal; *Nila* and her relationship with French girlfriends Danielle and *Nila's* extra marital relationship with a French man Benoir is analysed under the Queer concept.

Keywords: bisexual, lesbian, marriage, society, relationships.

Intimacy is defined as "feeling understood, validated, cared for, and closely connected with another person [or with God]" (Reis & Shaver, 1988, p. 385). Merriam Webster defines Intimacy as 'something of a personal or private nature'. Feeling safe when expressing vulnerability (Cordova & Scott, 2001) and during times of conflict (Dorian & Cordova, 2004) are important components of intimacy. It is well said that the individual should be accompanied at all their circumstance to avoid loneliness. A person will be haunted by infinity thoughts if they are alone. Dreams transforms into thoughts, thoughts results into action, says Dr.A.P.J. Kalam. (Interview, Facebook) Nilanjana Mandal (Nila) here haunted by such kind of thoughts and feelings after she encountered insecurity and a guest feeling with her husband. "Nila felt like a guest in Kishanlal's home" (Nasrin, 13). Home the word refers for the place filled with feelings and emotions. It is the home for Kishanlal but not for Nila. Nila hates Kishanlal (Kishan), even their friends push her towards him she did not like him. "Kishan looked at Nila with half closed eyes and said, 'Come closer. You're my wife and you are sitting so far away.' Everyone almost pushed Nila towards Kishan" (Nasrin, 18). When people did not like their companions, they try to move away from them and they will move away. Nila did not like Kishan because of his selfishness. Kishan always cares for him and he wanted to be good only in front of other people but not with Nila. When others push Nila to join with Kishan, people would have thought that Nila is adamant and a girl should not be so. She is not suitable for Kishan but none of them had their point from the side of Nila. What made her to do so? Why she behaves differently? Everywhere people try to convince only the female gender because she is the one who could be easily convinced. Though being convinced is to be a great quality people look this in a negative aspect when it comes to a girl.

Nila could not be intimate with Kishan and she could not bear up the things for long time, she broke off the relationship with Kishan and flew away and came back because she doesn't want to be the reason for the

separation between them. She irritates him with her acts and she moves away after his command over her. “My prestige and honour, all are gone.’ Kishan heaved a huge sigh.” (Nasrin, 73)

“Nila saw the young man kissing the woman and stroking her back lovingly. The two bodies were entwined. Nila wanted to be kissed like that;” (Nasrin, 67) Nila wanted to be in a intimate relationship. She could manage herself for that relationship but she doesn’t want to lose her ‘self’ to that man Kishan. She thrown away her desire for not accepting her as a Girl. She longed for the intimacy. She longed for a relationship. She longed for a care. She longed for a love.

Danielle her French girlfriend who is working with her in packing computer and its accessories. Nila shared all her with Danielle. She dined with her at many hotels, Nila knew Danielle friends, once Nila invited Danielle and Natalie to her room for Bengali food. They come to know the life style of Nila. Danielle offered Nila a dinner and she accused Nila for not thanking her for pouring wine while Nila justifies, in India, people never offer thanks between friends. Danielle prompted Nila, the waiter poured water to you, you didn’t thank him, is he your friend? Nila could not understand why she speaking like this but she come to know about Danielle through these kinds of conversation. She lacked these with Kishan, if they had so, she would not have separated from him. Intimacy develops between the couple or between anybody only by understanding them. Nila and Danielle stayed together they were very open to each other even then Nila could not found that Danielle is a homosexual and Danielle has developing a deep desire to be intimate with Nila. Once Nila encountered Danielle’s behaviour with her Nila stopped her Danielle was surprised and laughing at Nila for not finding her true side. They had seen people at roads kissing each other. Nila witness the freedom the people have; Danielle explains the homosexuality’s to Nila everyone has freedom to do what they wish. Even then Nila couldn’t find her at that time that she is a homosexual. “Danielle’s fingers climbed her arms and reached her scalp via her neck. Nila always dozed off if someone stroked her head. Molina used to do it often and Nila would fall asleep. In this faraway land Danielle was like mother to her.” (Nasrin, 97-98) Nila thought Danielle could be her mother her but Danielle wanted to have another kind relationship with her. People could not find what actually other person wanted to do with them. This makes relationship discrimination among the relationship. Danielle wanted to have lesbian relationship with Nila whereas Nila doesn’t like that and don’t wanted to be in such relationship but she accepts it and maintained the lesbian relation with Danielle for short period of time.

“ ‘Why? Don’t you want it too?’ Danielle was surprised.

‘Want what?’

‘Sex.’

‘What?’

‘I thought you wanted it too.’

‘How did you think that?’

Danielle said, ‘You held my hands in the street.’

‘So?’

‘So I thought you liked me.’ . . .

. . . Nila was still confused. Before her eyes the room began to spin, it flew in the air, the bed flew in the air. When she came back to it Danielle’s rapacious tongue licked her for the rest of the night. Nila lay there, speechless, breathless.” (Nasrin, 99)

Though Nila didn’t like the Danielle’s act she accepted it and continued. “Danielle pleaded, ‘Nila, I love you. Please share your feelings with me.’ ” (Nasrin, 116) She commits the same while Nila had gone for India for her Mother’s death. What is the need of such act when one’s mother funeral is being held? People use to smoke to come of their stress. They do this to come of their anxiety. Like so Nila depends on Danielle to come of the anxiety and Danielle uses the opportunity. Nila wanted to be intimate with Danielle but this lesbian relationship didn’t give her intimacy rather an addiction in pleasurable relationship.

Nila longing for her desired life and relationship. She finds Benoir Dupont (Benoir) whom she meets while departing from India to France to fill her dreams. He had a good chat with her in plane and taken her with him to meet out her needs. “Nila looked into Benoir’s blue eyes. He was far better looking that any of the handsome men she had ever fantasized about.” (Nasrin, 168) Nila, finds Benoir after Kishan and Danielle. She lived with him even he introduced him to her as married. When they meet very first at Benoir’s flat “ Benoir spoke in an intimate voice, ‘Drink me up, Nila, drink me.’ ” (Nasrin, 170) The intimacy which Nila longs started to grown here. The had relationship, Nila stayed with him, Benoir satisfied her feelings which she longed for. She lost herself in him. They were romantic and he is not like Kishan and Danielle. They compelled her to be in the relationship but he never. He crested the feeling in her and she enjoyed the relationship she felt the intimacy in him. She was very my transparent with him. He takes care of her in all the ways. She like him the more. Once Nila come to know about the continuity of relationship between Benoir and her wife she felt bad. She could not console herself and no body was there to console her. She asked him to leave them (wife and daughter) to accompany her. Benoir was so strong at her daughter, when Nila knew this her heart broke and her intimacy stops there. She come to know that no body is intimate in the world to anybody. People comes in life for a reason for a period of time and they leave at a point when it accomplishes. Nila in *French Lover* is denoted as bisexual but she is not a heterosexual, lesbian, asexual, intersexual even bisexual. She wanted her feelings to

be respected and she to be cared. She just wanted to be in a good relationship that need not to be in any specific way. She wanted to speak out what she wants to speak for that she doesn't need any specific relation. Kishan who is against her by framing certain norms for female and Danielle she wanted her to oblige her, though Danielle stands for Nila in different situations. In the case of Benoir, when Nila comes to know that there is someone more important than her to him, she withdrawn herself from him and starts to live alone after some suicidal attempts and punishing her body. Nasrin ends ups this novel open ended and made Nila to continues this till she finds a person for her to share her feelings as the world people goes around one to another to share their emotions and feelings in the concept if intimacy. People rather conclude they can stand for themselves so that the intimacy could recklessly grow with others to understand others in better way.

Works cited

1. Nasrin, Taslima. *French Lover*. Trans. Sreejata Guha. New Delhi: Penguin Books. 2002.
2. Reis HT, Shaver P. Intimacy as an interpersonal process. In: Duck S, editor. *Handbook of Personal Relationships*. Chichester, England: Wiley; 1988. pp. 367–389.
3. Cordova J, Scott R. Intimacy: A behavioral interpretation. *The Behavior Analyst*. 2001;24(1):75–86.
4. Dorian M, Cordova J. Coding intimacy in couples' interactions. In: Kerig P, Baucom D, editors. *Couple Observational Coding Systems*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates; 2004. pp. 243–256.
5. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/intimacy>
6. <https://www.facebook.com/kalamcentre/videos/dream-dream-dream-dreams-transform-into-thoughts-and-thoughts-result-in-actionka/3282846771953671/>