

A Comparative Analysis of Psychological Portrayals in "Almost the Heaven" by Judith McNaught and "Bygone Days" by Abdulla Kadiri

Usmonova Zarina Habibovna

Senior teacher of English Linguistics Department of BSU

Mirzayeva Mohinur Zokir qizi

1st year master student of BSU

Abstract: This article delves into the psychological intricacies of desire as depicted through the characters in "Almost the Heaven" by Judith McNaught and "Bygone Days" by Abdulla Kadiri. Through an examination of the lexical choices employed by the characters, this study aims to uncover the underlying emotions, conflicts, and motivations driving their desires. Utilizing the IMRAD structure, the article provides a comprehensive analysis of how different lexical units contribute to the portrayal of desire and psychological depth within the novels.

Keywords: Desire, character analysis, comparative analysis, almost the Heaven, Bygone Days, emotions, motivations, narrative context, thematic analysis, human condition, literature.

Introduction:

Desire serves as a fundamental aspect of human nature, often fueling the actions and decisions of individuals. In literature, the portrayal of desire offers insight into the inner workings of characters' minds, revealing their aspirations, fears, and emotional landscapes. Through an exploration of lexical units used to express desire, this study seeks to illuminate the psychological situation of characters in "Almost the Heaven" and "Bygone Days," shedding light on their desires and motivations.

Methodology:

The methodology employed in this study involves a close textual analysis of selected passages from both novels where characters express their desires explicitly or implicitly. Lexical units such as words, phrases, and idiomatic expressions are identified and analyzed in terms of their semantic significance, emotional resonance, and narrative context. Additionally, thematic analysis is conducted to discern recurring motifs and patterns related to desire across the two texts.

Results:

In "Almost the Heaven"¹ characters often articulate their desires through assertive and passionate language, reflecting their strong convictions and ambitions. Lexical units such as "yearning," "longing," and "craving" are frequently employed to convey intense emotional states and unfulfilled aspirations. Conversely, in "Bygone Days," the portrayal of desire is characterized by subtlety and restraint, with characters using nuanced expressions and gestures to communicate

¹ McNaught, Judith. "Almost Heaven." Pocket Books, 1991.

their innermost longings. Lexical units such as "yearn," "desire," and "wish" are imbued with layers of meaning, reflecting the characters' complex psychological landscapes and societal constraints.

These excerpts provide insights into the psychological aspects of the characters' desires through their actions and dialogue:

"May I ask why the hell he would think I have any desire to marry you?"²

This dialogue shows a moment of intense emotion and frustration for the character. The use of "hell" indicates the character's agitation and anger, suggesting that they have no desire for marriage. The question itself reflects a sense of disbelief and incredulity, indicating that the character may feel misunderstood or misrepresented by others. This dialogue reveals the character's strong-willed nature and their resistance to societal expectations or pressures.

"She felt his sharp intake of breath at the same time Ian felt desire begin to beat in his veins."

This sentence delves into the internal experiences of both characters, highlighting the palpable physical and emotional response triggered by their interaction. The mention of a "sharp intake of breath" suggests a sudden surge of arousal or excitement in the male character, Ian. The phrase "desire begin to beat in his veins" evokes a sense of passion and longing, indicating that Ian is experiencing a strong attraction to the female character. This excerpt portrays the characters' inner desires and the immediate impact of their interactions on their emotional states.

"At eight-thirty that night Ian stood on the steps outside Elizabeth's uncle's town house suppressing an almost overwhelming desire to murder Elizabeth's butler, who seemed to be inexplicably fighting down the impulse to do bodily injury to Ian."

This passage reveals the inner turmoil and conflicting emotions experienced by the character, Ian. The phrase "suppressing an almost overwhelming desire to murder" suggests a visceral reaction driven by intense anger or frustration. Ian's desire to harm Elizabeth's butler highlights his heightened emotional state and the extent to which he is willing to go to protect or assert himself. The butler's similar impulse to inflict harm on Ian underscores the tension and animosity between the characters. This excerpt showcases the characters' inner struggles and the potential consequences of their desires when left unchecked.

Discussion:

The comparative analysis of desire in "Almost the Heaven"³ and "Bygone Days" underscores the diverse ways in which characters navigate their innermost longings and aspirations. McNaught's novel emphasizes the dramatic intensity of desire through bold and evocative language, while Kadiri's work explores the intricacies of desire with subtlety and understatement. Through their choice of lexical units, both authors skillfully capture the psychological depth and complexity of human desire, enriching the narrative texture of their respective novels.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the portrayal of desire in "Almost the Heaven" and "Bygone Days" offers valuable insights into the psychological makeup of characters and the ways in which desire shapes their actions and relationships. By analyzing the lexical units used to express desire, this study has provided a nuanced understanding of the characters' motivations, conflicts, and emotional journeys. Ultimately, the exploration of desire in literature serves as a window into the human condition, inviting readers to contemplate their own desires and aspirations in light of the narratives presented.

² <https://ru.everand.com/book/328218731/Almost-Heaven-A-Novel>

³ McNaught, Judith. "Almost Heaven." Pocket Books, 1991.

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