



DEPICTION OF DILEMMA'S USING COMING-OF-AGE FICTION GENRE IN TIM WINTON'S *THE SHEPHERD'S HUT*

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ABSTRACT



The existing paper focus on the Coming of Age Fiction genre throughout the novel "The Shepherd's Hut". It describes how a person life changes by his choice of decision-making. In this paper, there are various terms of dilemmas that are explained and by merging the different circumstances of the novel with the various quotations of the dilemma's it is shown how those situations represent the various forms of dilemma's appropriately which are not only a part of the novel genre the coming of the age fiction or not only the circumstances of the novel but also those incidents which are their in the novel are the present scenario of today's society. The dilemmas are perfectly fitting the novel circumstances as it fits out in today's life.

Keywords: *A Coming of Age Genre, Dilemma, Society.*



INTRODUCTION

The Novel "The Shepherd's Hut" is written by Tim Winton and it was published on March 12, 2018. This novel contains the genre of Coming of age fiction and through this genre the author depicts the whole life journey of a young teenager boy named Jaxie Clackton. Mainly it is analysed in the novel that the whole life journey of the protagonist has been through lots of fears, striveness, courageousness, and dilemmas and the unexpected things that happened with him in his life. In this paper, there are various terms of dilemmas that are explained and by merging the different circumstances of the novel with the various quotations of the dilemma's it is shown how those situations represent the various forms of dilemma's appropriately which are not only a part of the novel genre the coming of the age fiction or not only the circumstances of the novel but also those incidents which are their in the novel are the present scenario of today's society and the dilemmas are perfectly fitting the novel circumstances as it fits out in today's life.

This novel is written by Tim Winton who is an Australian author this book is a beautiful blend of adventure and how a human strive in his own life leaving his hometown and heading towards north with only a rifle on his shoulder and a water jug in his hand and what life experiences he has in his whole journey.

The plot begins where the protagonist named Jaxie Clackton who is 17 years old boy drives car with the highest speed and in a very hazardous manner. Now Jaxie father was a drunken man who drinks day and night and don't even look after his wife and Jaxie wants his father to be dead because he hates him and he can live a peaceful life after his father dies. Whereas, Jaxie mother was dead earlier only because of being a cancer patient. Jaxie left his own house after his father death and had been towards north although in his walking route he was remembering his past situations related to his mom and the way he cared a lot for his mom and his girlfriend named Lee who was also his cousin sister as well with whom he was very comfortable sharing every thought and his feelings and how they had spent the fun time with each other and one

incident which they had and the whole family get to know about it and after that how Jaxie was never allowed to meet Lee not even at his own father funeral. He talked about the primary and high school days of his life. Later it is seen in the story how everyday he was struggling for food, water, rest, and having lots of dilemma in his path way after some time when he came near the salt-lands he saw a man through his binoculars who is staying in a hut and cutting some meat of a goat. The man was an old man and his name was Fintan MacGillis and he was a priest who had been on such an isolated place for more than eight years. When the first time they meet each other they are reserved in their conversations. Jaxie wants to keep his life private so when he was having a conversation with an old man he didn't mention from where he belonged or what was his family background and then Fintan and Jaxie both of them are curious to know about each other they had loads of conversation with each other and are well supportive for each other Fintan offered Jaxie to stay in his hut gave him space and comfort. They did lots of stuff together like walking together at night and talking about life, hunting together, cooking together, talking about religion, talking about the good death and the bad death and about different types of human nature and behaviours, looking at the full moon, sitting near the salt-lake although Jaxie was an introverted person.

Fintan wishes that jaxie should stay with him forever and accompany him. There were three times that Jaxie left Fintan hut and again returned back in his hut only related to some or the other things. For the first time when Jaxie moved out on the previous night only Fintan drugged him by giving him a tea. Second time Jaxie stopped himself willingly just to eat food and to take some rest because it was night. Third time when he had gone far away on his way from the hut he got a sudden remembrance that he had forgotten his binoculars on the table at Fintan hut. Fourth time when he headed all alone he saw a damp underneath his feet and when he dug into it there was a sea container of a hydroponic weed he again arrived at Fintan hut and told him that their are some gangsters who are growing a huge amount of weed in such a large space after having some discussion on the hydroponic weed Jaxie left Fintan



hut. The last time when Jaxie left his hut he saw that there were two vigorous gangsters heading towards Fintan hut and then Jaxie followed them then Jaxie was hiding nearby Fintan hut he sees that those two men were torturing Fintan neurotically. Jaxie was finding a moment to shoot both the robust gangsters he shot them when he got the appropriate chance and saved Fintan at the time when he was taking his last breath and then the old man died and Jaxie buried him respectfully near the salt-lake and then he headed again forward on his route and he will be in magnet city by noon and will be surprising Lee by appearing at her residence.

The Shepherd's Hut is a first person narrative where the protagonist himself is revealing his whole life experiences the fears and the dilemmas that he had faced during his rough striving journey of crossing the saltlands of Western Australia.

DILEMMA AND ITS TERMS

Dilemma is a term derived in 1520s (see below), from Late Latin *dilemma*, from Greek *dilemma* "double proposition," a technical term in rhetoric, from *di-* "two" (see **di-** (1)) + *lemma* "premise, anything received or taken," from the root of *lambanein* "to take" Let us see now what is the meaning of Dilemma : "A situation in which choice has to be made between possibilities that will all have results you do not want." Or it is a tough choice when you're in a difficult situation and each option looks equally bad, you're in a dilemma. For example: if you have to choose whether to save your cat or your dog from a burning building, that's an awful dilemma. Let's have a look on the different terms of dilemma. There are three common types of dilemma's. The first one is Classic Dilemma in which a choice between two or more alternatives, in which the outcomes are equally undesirable, or equally favorable. The dilemma does not typically involve a moral or ethical crisis, but the person or character's life may change as a result of their decision. The second one is Ethical Dilemma which arises when a person is forced to decide between two morally sound options, but they may conflict with the established boundaries of a business, a governmental agency, or the law. Some ethical dilemmas may involve following the truth versus being loyal to a

friend; following the laws or rules versus having compassion for an individual's plight; and concerns about an individual person versus the larger impact on a community. The third one is Moral Dilemma a situation in which a person is torn between right and wrong. A moral dilemma involves a conflict with the very core of a person's principles and values. The choice the person makes may leave them feeling burdened, guilty, relieved, or questioning their values. A moral dilemma often forces the individual to decide which option he or she can live with, but any outcomes are extremely unpleasant no matter what. Moral dilemmas are often used to help people think through the reasoning for their beliefs and actions, and are common in psychology and philosophy classes. These are the common dilemma's. Now we will see the Sequential Dilemma in which different behaviors which conflict with each other, but the most likely solution is to sequence them appropriately; the tension in the dilemma eventually becomes one of relative emphasis, timing, and transitioning. Then there is the Double Blind Dilemma in which the victim is placed in a 'no win' situation by another the victim feels obliged to act but the either choice is incompatible with the greater truth (sometimes feels associated with the other person) And the other one is Morton Fork Is a choice between two equally unpleasant alternatives (in other words, a dilemma) or two lines of reasoning that lead to the same unpleasant conclusion. These are some of the six various types of dilemmas.

INCIDENTS FROM THE NOVEL: THE SHEPHERD'S HUT IN WHICH DILEMMA IS REFLECTING:-

CLASSIC DILEMMA SITUATION:

What I needed was some way to keep meat. There was nothing I had to keep it cool. I figured smoking might work, only other thing I could think to use was salt, but I didn't have any of that neither. And that's the joke of it. Because there was billion tonnes of salt close by. I snuck north a bit. Then I took a proper look at where I was. It was a corrugated iron hut. Not much bigger than my place but better built. But when I got a good focus I saw it wasn't a person at all. It was a dirty white nanny goat. Then I heard a voice inside the hut. A man. It's just an old fella. So I get myself together. And maybe he heard my gasp,



because he kept on talking. I'm a civilized fella, he said. So let's be civilized fellas together. There's food here and you're welcome to it. **(Page no 71,94,95,96,109).**

ETHICAL DILEMMA SITUATION

I saw two blokes, one with a dirty straw hat and one with long dark hair. And Fintan wouldn't even hear them coming. They lashed him by the hands to the gambrel. The shit they said and did. They're doing stuff to Fintan you wouldn't do to a made dog. Then he began to sing. Maybe he wanted me to kill him then. Fintan gave a grunt then and sunk on the gambrel and the shithead with the hat reached behind for his automatic but i had the crosshair on his Adam's apple so when I fired I expected him to snap back like a roo. But the shot went wide and I thought i'd missed it completely. And when I turned the gun longhair's way that dumb evil cunt was just standing there with the knife. The second shot missed him totally and he crawled along a little way until I let another one loose and after the chunk come off the back of his head he give it up. Fintan was breathing when i got to the gambrel. And he was still alive when I let him down on the sticky earth. **(page no 244,249,261,262,264,265,266).**

MORAL DILEMMA SITUATION

I'm thinking why didn't she just take me with her? We coulda packed up the car and gone anywhere together. Made a new life, just the two of us. Was she too scared of what wankbag might do, frightened he'd come and find us? Or maybe I wasn't worth the risk? Maybe she figured like everyone else that i was a scumbag. See, my mum couldn't make herself choose me. Three's a crowd. She picked him. **(page no 39,40).**

SEQUENTIAL DILEMMA SITUATION

i 'm off, i said.
It'll be dark soon.
I can live with it.
Then take the bedroll, he said. I have no need of it.
I can't carry it.
Well, you're welcome to come back for it.
I don't think so.
No, i said. I'm no thief.
Well, do take some. Please. I'll get you a bag.
I wish you'd stay, he said. Really, I do.

Yeah, i thought. I'll bloody bet you do. But i didn't say it. I told him thanks for the food and picked up me water jug and got going. **(page no 158,159).** Double Blind Dilemma Situation: And next thing she's kneeling in the dry weeds. But she pulls my shorts down. Her hair's shining and it wasn't like anytime before because it was so sad and calm and kind and it was like we really were in a room of our own. When i was done she squatted back on her haunches and wiped her mouth with a victory grin and that's when i knew i would love her forever. Next thing of course he's standing there, winding one up. And i can see the fist coming but i don't even move to save myself. I come into the kitchen and it's dead quiet. Everyone's up round the table with silly paper hats on and they're waiting. Mum and Auntie Marg have got their hands over their mouths, eyes as big as oven dials. He pulls the bottle off his mouth and burps and just looks at me. You filthy grub, he says. He says it all. Even in front of the little ones. What we did. What he saw. Then auntie Marg's across the room and she's got Lee by the hair. Lee looks at me one time. Her feet are bare. And that was the last time i was in the same room as her. She wasn't even allowed to come to the funeral. **(page no 116,117,118).**

MORTON FORK DILEMMA:

I felt so flat. And stupid. I thought of all that roo meat on the turn back at the diggings. Even if i got going there and then, no way would i be getting back to me own place tonight. I'd be lucky to make it the day after. We et sitting at the table and for once the old man didn't say nothing. **(page no 147)**

DILEMMA'S QUOTATIONS SIGNIFIES THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE NOVEL: THE SHEPHERD'S HUT :

1. CLASSIC DILEMMA:

"In which a choice between two or more alternative, in which the outcomes are equally undesirable, or equally favourable. The dilemma does not typically involve a moral or ethical crisis, but the person or character life may change as a result of their decision". **Situation of the novel in which this dilemma reflecting is :** What I needed was some way to keep meat. There was nothing I had to keep it cool. I figured smoking might work, the only other thing I could think to use was salt, but I didn't have



any of that neither. And that's the joke of it. Because there was billion tonnes of salt close by. I snuck north a bit. Then i took a proper look at where I was. It was a corrugated iron hut. Not much bigger than my place but better built. But when i got a good focus i saw it wasn't a person at all. It was a dirty white nanny goat. Then i heard a voice inside the hut. A man. It's just an old fella. So i get myself together. And maybe he heard my gasp, because he kept on talking. I'm a civilized fella, he said. So let's be civilized fellas together. There's food here and you're welcome to it. *(page no 71,94,95,96,109).*

Explanation of the quotation with situation of the novel:

Is that Jaxie wanted to keep the meat cool so he figured out salt is the best way to keep the meat cool and there was billions of saltlands nearby the expanse when he went far way north he saw a hut over their and there was a man in the hut and that man who was their in the hut even solicit him in for salt. Now here the situation comes of classic dilemma is that if Jaxie desire he could have taken the salt from the adjacent land and had returned to his place but when the old fella invited him in he had chosen to get into his hut and from the decision that Jaxie had taken his whole life takes a huge turn. The situation is favourable to Jaxie to get the salt from old man's hut and then the equally undesirable complications and situations that happened in his life. Here it is presented through the novel how a classic dilemma unintentionally comes in a person's life and with the crisis person has to face through which his life eventually takes a massive unpredictable turn

2. ETHICAL DILEMMA:

"which arises when a person is forced to decide between two morally sound options, but they may conflict with the established boundaries of a business, a governmental agency, or the law. Some ethical dilemmas may involve following the truth versus being loyal to a friend; following the laws or rules versus having compassion for an individual's plight; and concerns about an individual person versus the larger impact on a community".

Situation of the novel in which dilemma is reflecting is :

I saw two blokes, one with a dirty straw hat and one with long dark hair. And Fintan wouldn't even hear them coming. They lashed him by the hands to the gambrel. The shit they said and did. They're doing stuff to Fintan you wouldn't do to a made dog. Then he began to sing. Maybe he wanted me to kill him then. Fintan gave a grunt then and sunk on the gambrel and the shithead with the hat reached behind for his automatic but i had the crosshair on his Adam's apple so when i fired i expected him to snap back like a roo. But the shot went wide and i thought i'd missed it completely. And when i turned the gun longhair's way that dumb evil cunt was just standing there with the knife. The second shot missed him totally and he crawled along a little way until i let another one loose and after the chunk come off the back of his head he give it up. Fintan was breathing when i got to the gambrel. And he was still alive when I let him down on the sticky earth.*(page no 244,249,261,262,264,265,266).*

Explanation of the quotation with situation of the novel:

Jaxie saw two blokes and they were torturing Fintan the old man wanted Jaxie that he should kill the two fellows who are harassing Fintan and here strikes the Ethical dilemma in the behaviour and the decision that Jaxie made at that particular condition, Jaxie decided to choose between Fintan and his friendship and to kill the two geezer he picked Fintan and shot both the blokes with his own rifle and saved Fintan from them. This way Jaxie morally chose the individual person Fintan versus the two blokes who were afflicting him. Ethical dilemma shows the moral human behaviour in a person through which a person choose between what is right and wrong as an individual person and on a general basis in today's society.

3. MORAL DILEMMA:

"a situation in which a person is torn between right and wrong. A moral dilemma involves a conflict with the very core of a person's principles and values. The choice the person makes may leave them feeling burdened, guilty, relieved, or questioning their values. A moral dilemma often



forces the individual to decide which option he or she can live with, but any outcomes are extremely unpleasant no matter what. Moral dilemmas are often used to help people think through the reasoning for their beliefs and actions, and are common in psychology and philosophy classes”.

Situation of the novel in which dilemma is reflecting:

I'm thinking why didn't she just take me with her? We coulda packed up the car and gone anywhere together. Made a new life, just the two of us. Was she too scared of what wankbag might do, frightened he'd come and find us? Or maybe i wasn't worth the risk? Maybe she figured like everyone else that i was a scumbag. See, my mum couldn't make herself choose me. Three's a crowd. She picked him.(page no 39,40).

Explanation of the quotation with situation of the novel :

In this situation Jaxie wanted that her mother should select him and they should both abandon their father house and will transpose elsewhere but her mother rejected him and picked his father because there were only three members in the family and she hand-picked her husband to live her life with by knowing that the outcomes are dreadful because her husband was an alcoholic and does not look after for them. In this way Jaxie mother knowing that the outcomes would be obnoxious made this decisiveness and this is how she was in a Moral Dilemma of choosing between her husband and her son. Moral dilemma is contemplated in the present society where every woman in her house somewhere doesn't feel happy with her marital life but still manages to cope up with the marriage so the whole family might not broke up and further the child stays away from the evil side of the father figure or their are many other personal reasons a woman has and this happens in some or the other house in today's society.

4. SEQUENTIAL DILEMMA:

“In which different behaviors which conflict with each other, but the most likely solution is to sequence them appropriately; the tension in the dilemma eventually becomes one of relative emphasis, timing, and transitioning”.

Situation of the novel In which dilemma is reflecting:

i 'm off, i said.

It'll be dark soon.

I can live with it.

Then take the bedroll, he said. I have no need of it.

I can't carry it.

Well, you're welcome to come back for it.

I don't think so.

No, i said. I'm no thief.

Well,do take some. Please. I'll get you a bag.

I wish you'd stay, he said. Really, I do.

Yeah, i thought. I'll bloody bet you do. But i didn't say it. I told him thanks for the food and picked up me water jug and got going.(page no 158,159)

Explanation of the quotation with situation of the novel:

It is seen here that Jaxie and Fintan are both arguing Fintan is trying to halt Jaxie of not leaving his hut and Fintan behaviour and manner of talking is very adequate but on the other side Jaxie behaviour and the way of talking is arrogant and rude. And the solution is made in sequence through Jaxie by being stubborn and emphasis with himself and on Fintan as well. And this way the change is seen in the whole scenario through their dissimilar behaviour's how the way Fintan was trying to stop him through his ample talks and the way Jaxie was responding him in a presumptuous manner by being obstinate and opt to vacate his hut. Sequential dilemma happens in man's life on some or the other day but how a person manages to tackle the conversation and comes out from that situation by being stubborn with his own decision and making that work done in a finalised manner that shows a feature of sequential dilemma in him.

5. DOUBLE BLIND DILEMMA:

“In which the victim is placed in a 'no win' situation by another the victim feels obliged to act but the either choice is incompatible with the greater truth (sometimes feels associated with the other person)”.

**Situation of the novel in which dilemma is reflecting:**

And next thing she's kneeling in the dry weeds. But she pulls my shorts down. Her hair's shining and it wasn't like anytime before because it was so sad and calm and kind and it was like we really were in a room of our own. When i was done she squatted back on her haunches and wiped her mouth with a victory grin and that's when i knew i would love her forever. Next thing of course he's standing there, winding one up. And i can see the fist coming but i don't even move to save myself. I come into the kitchen and it's dead quiet. Everyone's up round the table with silly paper hats on and they're waiting. Mum and Auntie Marg have got their hands over their mouths, eyes as big as oven dials. He pulls the bottle off his mouth and burps and just looks at me. You filthy grub, he says. He says it all. Even in front of the little ones. What we did. What he saw. Then auntie Marg's across the room and she's got Lee by the hair. Lee looks at me one time. Her feet are bare. And that was the last time i was in the same room as her. She wasn't even allowed to come to the funeral. (page no 116,117,118).

Explanation of the quotation with the situation of the novel:

When Jaxie and Lee his girlfriend is having a physical intimacy at that considerable time Jaxie father watched them doing all those things and his father went into the house where auntie Marg's and Jaxie mother was sitting and his father told everything to them about Lee and Jaxie. Both of them are victim's in front of others and they are in a 'no win' situation and they feel obliged for the thing that they had done because they can't change the greater truth by being mendacious about them because that is an incompatible choice to do and the whole scene is associated to both Lee and Jaxie. In this present world when the truth is much greater than the crime done a person comes in a 'no win' situation and humanity wins if there is no compatibility with their false ideas of fleeing.

6. MORTON FORK DILEMMA

"It is a choice between two equally unpleasant alternatives (in other words, a dilemma)

or two lines of reasoning that lead to the same unpleasant conclusion".

Situation of the novel in which dilemma is reflecting:

I felt so flat. And stupid. I thought of all that roo meat on the turn back at the diggings. Even if i got going there and then, no way would i be getting back to me own place tonight. I'd be lucky to make it the day after. We et sitting at the table and for once the old man didn't say nothing. (page no 147).

Explanation of the quotation with the situation of the novel:

Jaxie wanted to scoot Fintan hut but there came a time when Jaxie want that he should stay for one more day so that he can get some food and comfort and he thought that if he would leave also Fintan hut at that particular night then to he won't be reaching at the destination where he want to go at last. So there were two alternatives options for Jaxie one staying at Fintan hut and the second one is leaving his hut and walking long on his way further so he prefers to stay at Fintan hut which was a repugnant option for him because he wanted to leave Fintan hut from the last two to three times. But to get some comfort he just stayed at his hut for one more night which was a disgusting conclusion for him as well and he knows it better in this manner Jaxie was indulged in a Morton Fork dilemma situation. The current scenario of today's world has made us a lot stronger knowing that when there are two options and both are unpleasant a person has to knowingly choose one out of them just to survive that part of life and to let that situation pass out from their life they do it without any joyfulness.

CONCLUSION

As it is shown in the above paper there are total six various forms of dilemmas which are described through the genre of coming of age fiction novel "The Shepherd's Hut". As the varied situation of the text describes how the dilemmas affect the person life and changes it in a drastic manner in the same way dilemma comes in each and every individual life but what matters is how the person reacts on it with a vacuous mind and faces it and figures out the solutions and should move further in life by keeping up the persistence.



One of the most famous literary dilemmas appears in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. The phrase "To be or not to be...", is quite famous. However, many are not aware that these words embody the central conflict of Hamlet's dilemma. Hamlet is comparing the agony of life, with the fear and uncertainty of death. While Hamlet is disappointed with his life, he is also scared of death, especially by suicide. He is frightened by what death has in store; it may be "sleep", or it could be an experience worse than life. Hamlet's dilemma is to stay living unhappily, or commit suicide and await uncertainty after life. This famous phrase shows that Hamlet kept the persistence in his life from the beginning and had strived out all the dilemmas he was facing. Lastly taking the revenge of his father's death, he died peacefully at the end fighting as a soldier.

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