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Email:

mehdimohsin@alkadhum-col.edu.iq**Keywords:**Trauma, Symbolic Order,
Imaginary Order, Real, Lord
of Flies**ARTICLE INFO****Article history:**

Received 18 May 2023

Accepted 21 Jun 2023

Available online 1 Jul 2023

Trauma in Golding's Lord of Flies from Lacanian psychoanalysis Lens**A B S T R A C T**

Trauma is a popular term in modernist literature. The term is used along with psycho-analytical perspective. It means that a person is exposed to a psychological harm due to emotional reaction to a terrible situation. The current research is an attempt to scrutinize the concept of trauma in Golding's Lord of Flies. It endeavors to give an insight about character's trauma in the aftermath of a Great World War II and how they react towards the world around them. It clarifies how the Great War creates a painful effect on the characters' psyche. The paper consists of four sections. The first is an introduction about the novella elaborating its main idea. The second section discusses the concept of trauma from non-traditional psychological perspective and its impact on man's behavior. The third section concerns with the analysis of various events and characters from psycho-analytical dimensions. Finally, the fourth section encapsulates the main points of the paper and recommendations of the further studies.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31185/>

دراسة حول الصدمة النفسية لرواية أمير الذباب للكاتب كولدنك من وجهة نظر التحليل النفسي عند جاكوز لاكان

مهدي عباس محسن/كلية الامام الكاظم ع/ قسم اللغة الانكليزية/ واسط
الخلاصة:

إن مصطلح الصدمة النفسية واسع الانتشار في الادب الانكليزي الحديث، إذ أن هذا المصطلح يستعمل مع منظور التحليل النفسي الذي يعد أحد سمات الادب الحديث، وكما معروف إن الصدمة النفسية تكون ناتجة عن تعرض المرء لمشكلة عاطفية أو موقف مخيف، وهذه الورقة البحثية هي محاولة لدراسة مفهوم الصدمة النفسية لرواية أمير الذباب لكولدن. وعلاوة على ذلك فإن البحث يحاول أن يوضح الصدمة النفسية بعد الحرب العظيمة لشخصيات الرواية وكيفية تأثيرها على سلوك الشخصيات و علاقتها مع البيئة المحيطة. وقد اقتضت خطة البحث أن تتكون من أربعة مباحث: تضمن المبحث الأول مقدمة حول رواية كولدن. وكان المبحث الثاني عبارة عن توضيح نظرية التحليل النفسي عند عالم لاكان من وجهة نظر غير تقليدية. وأما المبحث الثالث فقد كان دراسة تحليلية لشخصيات وأحداث الرواية من وجهة نظر التحليل النفسي

عند العالم لاكان. وانتهى المبحث الرابع بخلاصة للمبحث يبين الباحث فيها النقاط الأساسية لنتائج البحث و توصيات لدراسات مستقبلية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الصدمة النفسية ، النظام الرمزي ، النظام الخيالي ، الحقيقة ، أمير الذباب.

1.Introduction

People encounter with many negative incidents and accidents in the cycle of their life. The incidents and accidents do not necessarily cause physical injuries to them but, certainly, by which they experience various psychological traumas. Putting it differently, such circumstances make them susceptible to psychological issues. In day to day context, it is observed that the impact of traumas on particular persons are tangible due to defect in his/her behavior or the way of expressing their feelings, impulses and life. For instance, those who are inflicted with traumatic events, their speech and behaviors are characterized as unorganized, incomprehensible to ego mind which stands –in for consciousness, the analytical machine and the process of signification. The concept of trauma is viewed quite different. The dialogues of traumatic people suffer from clarity and organization, implying peculiar themes, conveying messages of loss, lack of logic, defect in the parameters of humanity (Mohsin, 2018). Though, literature is a message, reflecting the practices of the age; however, the conditions of pain and loss are articulated in the fabric of modernist literature (Barry, 2015). Thus, the study adopts one of William Golding's *Lord of Flies* to study the concept of trauma from Lacan's psycho- analytical perspective.

Golding's *Lord of Flies* is a great example due to its structure which consists many psychological elements. It concerns with allegorizing the situation of a community survives from mass destruction, ruling themselves without order, or system. The novella does not have an organized story, reflecting a new structure that breaks up from traditions of realist writings. It studies a group boys, who have got evacuated from their school in England, to protect them from a nuclear war, by a plane which has shot down by a rocket. The plane falls in an isolated island in the pacific. All boys have survived from the plane crash except the pilot. The boys are divided into two groups littlants and older boys who act as leaders at the Island. The novella begins with the meeting of Ralph & Piggy who stand for wisdom, order, and rationality.

From the very beginning, Ralph and Piggy's idea is to make a shelter and a signal fire as a sign for any pass byers (a ship or a plane). They find a conch shell and use it as a trumpet to call for any other survivors. When they blow into the conch shell the other boys start to gather at

the beach. The conch shell is not merely used as a trumpet; however, in the context of the novella, it is employed metaphorically to possess a philosophical dimension. It stands-in for discipline and enactment of law which are very crucial factors for man to be constructive rather than deconstructive in the world they lives at. Moreover, the novella gives an insight about the schoolboys from literal and metaphorical angles on isolated island. The author utilizes raw and cooked food on literal and metaphorical perspectives to create an analogy between civilization and savagery (Olsen, 2000). The novella consists of vivid images such as lagoons of fresh water, vegetation and the imagine of ocean metaphorically, portraying the beauty of the Island; at the same time, these types of metaphors are utilized to depict nature as a source of evil as well. In a broader sense, these types of metaphors are classified as generic metaphors, embedded more than one type of meaning. The reason of using such type of metaphoric expressions is not only to reflect a particular situation of the world; however, they represent conflicting forces within human psyche (Ibid). To put it more concisely, the novelist employs kind of metaphors to show similarities between man and nature. Both can be a source of goodness and evilness simultaneously. Although the Island has prospects of happy living; however, the sounds produced by natural objects from the wind represent evil forces shared by both man and nature.

At the Island, we have boys representing evil such as Jack and Roger. They prefer hunting over organizing and order. Aside from Jack's selfish motivations, hunting originates not just from the physical desire for meat but also from a psychological desire. (Xiao & Huafei, 2022). Eating meat from hunting has a metaphorical side on the island. Olsen (2000) argues that those who depend on fruits, representing poor and lazy people, while those who eat meat symbolize rich, violent people. They represent savagery and chaos, refusing Ralph and Piggy's suggestions about building a shelter and set up as signal fire. As the events of the novella progress, the rift between the two groups of the boys increases. Ralph and Piggy represent law, logic, wisdom, and technology. As the novella progresses, the conflict increases between the two groups. Those who are affiliated to evil use illusion to kill Simon who represents goodness and spirituality; then, they killed Piggy who represents intellectuality. Xiao & Huafei (2022) argues that the idea of hunting is not only a product of physical desire but, also, it internalizes a psychological need. On this basis, the route of the novel turns from killing animals as a need for surviving into cannibalism. Thus, the novelist views elements of nature away from tradition perspective. He depicts nature as a source of evil and good, and resembling it with human psyche which its structure represents also both evil and good.

The research adopts Lacan's theory as a mode of analysis. The study is an attempt to attribute the symbols of the novella to the unconscious of man which is, as described by Lacan, structured like a language. In other words, symbols used in the novella are a product of unconscious mind of man; however, the analysis of these symbols are very crucial to shed light on the interaction among the three registers, symbolic, imaginary, and the real. If there is any imbalance between these three registers, there would be imbalance in man's behavior. On light of what is mentioned above, the next section will discuss Lacan's division of man's psyche and how it is affected by trauma.

2. Literature review

2.1 Anomalies of Characters' Behaviour

Those people who suffer from hallucination, resulted from trauma, having deterioration in both symbolic system which represents language; and imaginary system which stands in for the backdrop of symbolic system. Tyson (2006) describes the Imaginary Order as the background of consciousness even as the Symbolic Order holds sway in the foreground. In the section of the analysis, it is noticed that characters of the novella suffer from disruption of both systems which are Symbolic and Imaginary systems, resulting deterioration in the product of logical behavior. Biologically, the disruption of the symbolic system can be attributed to deterioration in an area of the brain, called the frontal cortex. This area represents logic, wisdom, and the analytical machine of human brain (Sapolsky, 2017). Such area of man is susceptible to failure due to traumatic circumstances, for instance, war, loss of loved ones or bloodbath. A person who has experienced a traumatic event, he\ she might lose logic and wisdom. Such quality can be traced in the communities which suffer from civil wars, and starvation, resulted to escalation of death toll. Putting it differently, the cultural fabric of traumatized societies might result individuals, believing in violence and savagery (Barry, 2015). It is observed that the speech of traumatized people cannot follow the logical formula of signifier and signified to fit the world at which they live. Lacan's algebra is very significant to clarify his theory. He formulates the following equation, referring to how language is produced $\frac{S}{s}$ the (S), in the numerator, represents the symbolic system or the language; while (s), in the denominator, represents objects from unconscious which is a product of imaginary system (Tyson, 2006). Any disruption in the area of logic and wisdom leads to deterioration to symbolic system which stands in for language the

signifier might refer to non-sense signified. In the novel, we notice the littluns suffer from hallucination due to break down of Symbolic system.

2.2 The Lacanian Concept of Man's Psyche

Lacanian work is an interpretation of Freudian theory which classifies man's psyche into three parts: Ego, Superego, and Id. On light of this classification, Lacan classifies man's psyche three orders or registers which are: Symbolic, Imaginary, and Real. Imaginary system gives us an insight about mirror stage. Also, it is associated with other (autre) with small (a). Moreover, Imaginary system is one of the manifestation of Ego which can be affected by the Symbolic system which stands for big Other (Autre) (Lacan, 2006). When there is a trauma, afflicted Symbolic system, it would be an impact on Imaginary system which serves as a background to Symbolic system. The Symbolic system can, also, be affected by Real when a person experiences a traumatic event. According to Lacan, the concept Real is different from the term reality (Tyson, 2006). However, it is misunderstood, impossible, cannot be experienced and symbolized. It is the representation of the unconscious, formulated like a language difficult to be interpreted in day to day language (Rwin, 2002). In a broader sense, Real is expressed via behavior not language. The register of Real can be affected by the turmoil events; it might be transcribed in the Symbolic register. In the other words, what man experiences in the Symbolic can be reflected in Real.

The Symbolic register stands for human language associated with rules, social and cultural conventions. According to Lacan, it represents big Other which stands-in for, manifested as signifieds and signifiers, formulating the network of social norms and rules (Evan, 2006). As a result of trauma, the control of Real which is considered as unfathomable dimension of man's psyche leads to interfere within Imaginary and Symbolic systems. Such event causes many symptoms, for instance, deviations in the social and cultural norms and hallucination. In other words, Real comes into being when a trauma occurs in the world of meaning. It is observed that, traumatic events affect the cognitive functions of man resulting hallucination which can be defined as disruption between the areas illusion and reality within human psyche. However, Real may address something biological in man such as illness.

Lacan uses in his psycho-analytical theory three psychic terms; the first is the Imaginary Order, which is exploited by writers for literary production as sources of metaphorical expressions. It is a phenomenon in psychoanalysis, the researcher considers them as a prime

source of motivation. Johnson (2013) describes it as fictional, stimulated and virtual dimension of human psyche anchored in actual or factual human realities. The second term is Symbolic Order, which refers to signifying systems or human language. Johnson theorizes that the Symbolic Order is customs, institutions, mores and tradition of culture and societies (ibid). However, the Imaginary Order refers to ideal concepts that might anchor at (or has a relationship with) the world of reality 'Symbolic Order'. In a broader sense, Imaginary Order is the representation of man's sub-conscious, conveying metaphorical meanings which might be related to Symbolic Order or representing Imaginary Order only (Tyson, 2006). For that reason, it can be used to represent an ideal world based on similarity or sameness. In other words, the similarity between form and meaning might be achieved when human language makes reference to an ideal world to mimic the actual world. The third term is Real which is considered out of the Symbolic system. Lacan (1991) views it as a language difficult to understand. It is observed that the three registers must be in balance and any defect occurs to one of the three registers, resulting imbalance in man's psychology. The diagram below serves as a methodology to elaborate the characters in Golding's *Lord of Flies*, showing the connection between the three registers (systems) in human psyche. It is noticed that the overwhelming of Imaginary or Real causes deterioration in the Symbolic system.

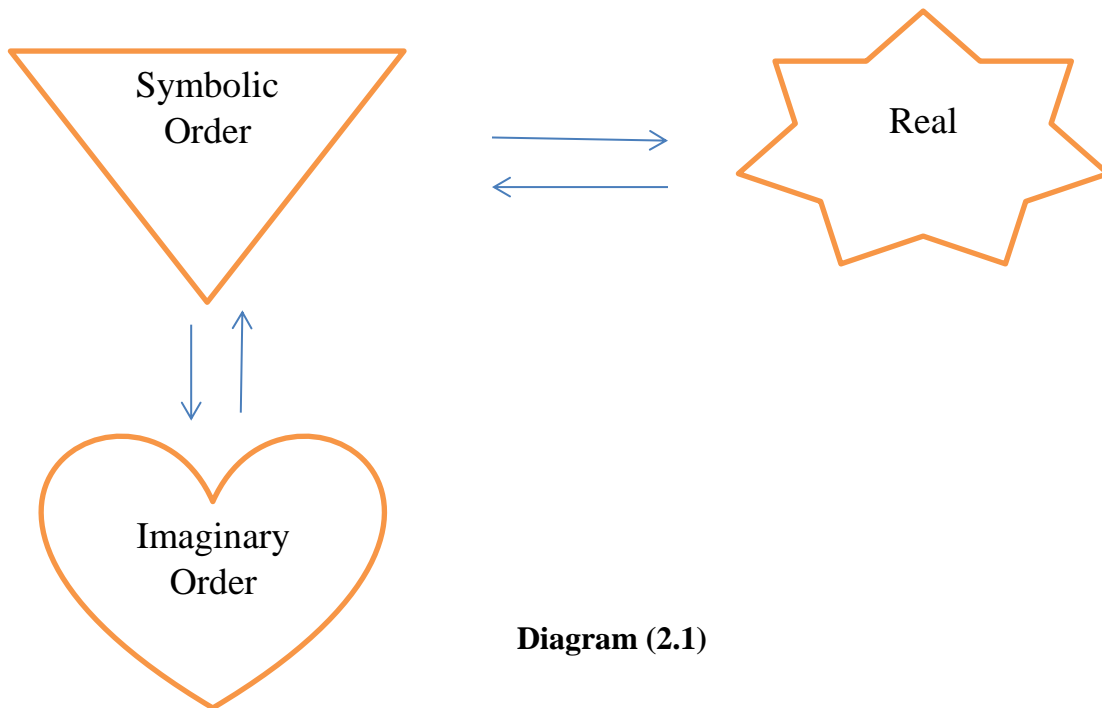


Diagram (2.1)

In this diagram, there is no relationship between Real and Imaginary order in normal sense; however, there is a relationship between symbolic Order and Real become patent in the occurrence of trauma. The Real is affected by the income of the Symbolic System. Conversely, if there is problem in Real, it will be manifested as a defect in the Symbolic system. Moreover, we can grasp a relationship between Imaginary Order and Symbolic Order. It will be clarified in the analysis section.

3. Analysis & Findings

Introduction

The section analyzes the concept of trauma of *Lord of Flies* characters from Lacanian theory. The analysis utilizes a part of the theory which classifies human psyche into three suggested Orders which are Real, Symbolic, and Imaginary. Moreover, the analysis makes hints to sort of diseases attributed to deterioration of man's symbolic Order.

3.1 Disruption of Characters' Symbolic Order

The characters suffer from neural diseases, resulting breakdown in the conscious mind which is represented by Symbolic Order. Biologically, Symbolic System is situated at the subcortical area, standing-in for conscious mind which is responsible for understanding the world in analytical way. The disruption of the Symbolic Order leads the characters of the novella to resort to sub-conscious mind (the Imaginary Order) or the unconscious mind (Real) depending on the background of the character himself. In other way, the social or the cultural background of the character identifies which Order he manifests. It is observed that Simon descended from a medium of moral and religious values. On this basis, Imaginary Order has prevailed on his character; while Jack and Roger have experienced the overwhelming of Real due to their social status before the trauma. The event of plane crash has affected negatively the cortical area of brain which is responsible for Symbolic Order production. For instance, Simon's character dwells in imaginary Order which stands-in for morality, goodness and perfection. Such Order has a connection with the Symbolic Order. It is clear in the events of the novella that Simon (Imaginary Order) helps Ralph and Piggy in building a shelter for the littluns; and also, helps to provide them fruits.

As it is noticed, there are only two characters: Ralph and Piggy, representing law and logic in the novella. In the context of the novella, they work hard to implement rule in the Island.

They reject to believe in the idea that the Island is haunted with a monster. Those who spread the rumors of monster attempt to ruin the idea of establishing civilized system. Piggy gives no importance to rumors of beast; however the most important task for him is to follow rules to live in decent and civilized way as clarified in his following speech. *“We’ve got to have rules and obey them. After all, we’re not savages. We’re English, and the English are best at everything”* (Golding, 2001:41) He always measures things from logical way by focusing on building a shelter and set up fire as a signal for the sake of rescue. According to Lacan’s division, Piggy can be classified as a representative of Symbolic Order in the novella, as clarified in the following speech: *“I know there isn’t no beast—not with claws and all that, I mean—but I know there isn’t no fear, either...Unless we get frightened of people”*.

The Imaginary Order never coincides with the character who have deterioration in both Symbolic (Auter) and Imaginary Orders (auter) like Jack and his group who dwell in Real due to their reaction to law implementation and morality simultaneously. The following extract shows Roger’s violent behavior towards the littluns; he throws rocks at them preventing them from building sandcastle. It is observed that Roger dwells in the Real, preventing littluns dreaming to live in civilized situation which represents Symbolic Order.

Roger gathered a handful of stones and began to throw them. Yet there was a space round Henry, perhaps six yards in diameter, into which he dare not throw. Here, invisible yet strong, was the taboo of the old life. Round the squatting child was the protection of parents and school and policemen and the law (Golding, 2001:62).

The boys suffer from neurosis as a result of the trauma of surrounding. Such factor makes them viewing the world as full of menace; for instance, Sam & Eric see the dead parachutist hung on the tree as a beast. The distorted image of parachutist brings fear to all boys specially littluns. The distorted image of the parachutist, the shape of sea wave and the scary sounds produced by nature is attributed to disruption of both Symbolic and Imaginary Registers. In other words, what the littluns see is the manifestation of Real which is never be interpreted in Symbolic level. In brain biology, the area which is responsible for Real interpreted in Symbolic Order as fear and violence. We notice that the little boys start to scare from the very beginning of the novella and when their fear increases they start to join jack’s choir to express violence via hunting.

Jack's attempts is to kill Ralph who constitute the only source fear to his empire of savagery. He sets fire in the forest to smoke Ralph out, Ralph escaped towards the beach. Metaphorically, Ralph's act is to escape the overwhelming force of Real which has been prevailed in the psyche from one hand and with human psyche in the other hand. The following extract shows the fact: "*Ralph was running beneath trees, with the grumble of the forest explained. They had smoked him out and set the island on fire*" (Golding, 2001: 202).

The boys suffer from distortion in the register of Imaginary, or in the Real because the real is structured like a language different from day to day language which stands-in for symbolic register. Real might stand for desire and any distortion in the desire leads to distortion in language. Jack and Roger are the representative of desire; their goal in life is hunting and destruction of the other children's psyche.

One of the manifestation of trauma is anxiety, attributed neurotic diseases result lack of adaptation to symbolic Order. In other words, it is experienced to a person when there is imbalance in the production of the three registers. Anxiety is a product of deterioration in Symbolic Order. According to Lacan, it means the process of imaginization of Real and symbolization of the imaginary (Lacan, 2006). The characters of the novella see distorted image of the dead parachutist by imaging it as a monster or beast. It is observed on the part of littluns and the guards (Sam & Eric) that they insist to believe the deformed image is the beast. Moreover, they view the beauty of nature of the Island as a threat to them instead of source of relaxation and inspiration as described by romanticism. Jack is one of the main characters who stands-in for Real due to trauma; his sole goal in life is to hunt pigs, aloof from logic, order and civilization. The following extract shows Jack's psychological state. He suffers from overwhelming of Real, causing deterioration in the Symbolic Order.

His mind was crowded with memories; memories of the knowledge that had come to them when they closed in on the struggling pig, knowledge that they had outwitted a living thing, imposed their will upon it, taken away its life like a long satisfying drink (Golding, 2001: 70).

We notice that Simon stands-in for imaginary register which represents the ideal world. It is shown in the events of the novella Simon assists only the kids who are traumatized from the real. Simultaneously, he supports Ralph and Piggy's decision in building a shelter for the littluns

but he never meet in any way with those who stands-in for unconscious, suffering from the trauma of the Real such as Jack and Roger because there is nothing in his psyche about desire. The following extract shows Simon's psychic status when he talk to the head of the pig (Lord of Flies). Such event reveals Simon's psychological status. The following excerpt clarifies Simon's hallucinatory situation when he is talking to decapitated head:

There isn't anyone to help you. Only me. And I'm the Beast. . . . Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill! . . . You knew, didn't you? I'm part of you? Close, close, close! I'm the reason why it's no go? Why things are the way they are.. (Golding, 2001:143).

The act of speaking to pig head does not make sense in ordinary sense, because Simon suffers from trauma of the Real which pushes him to talk and hear voices of inanimate due to deterioration of Symbolic Order. However, Simon is the representative of goodness which can be traced in his role of the novella. His act of speaking to Lord of Flies is not an evil deed but it is an attempt to eliminate the threat of violence resulted from the alleged existence of Beast.

3.2 The Impact of Real on the Imaginary & the Symbolic Orders

Building a sand castle is very significant event in the course of the novella. This is one of the favorite game of the littluns. The castle stands-in for the ideal world that they fond of. The study attributes building a castle to world to Imaginary system by which people can communicate and interact with one another it can shows the style of living. Conversely, the littluns are inactive to achieve the objectives of survival suggested by those who represent intellectuality and wisdom. These objectives affiliated to Symbolic system. Psychoanalytically, the Imaginary System is the part of the unconscious which considers the background of the Symbolic Order (the conscious mind). We notice that they dream to achieve descent way of living but they cannot because the trauma of Real serves as a barrier preventing them from articulating what they have in Imaginary to be transcribed into the Symbolic System. In other words, for the littluns, the impulses of sub-conscious cannot be manifested in Symbolic Order, suppressed by the traumatic events experienced by the conscious mind. In a border sense, the impact of the traumas of war and plane crash serves as a barrier for the conscious mind to fulfill the dreams of the littluns.

Metaphorically, building a sand castle stands for their dreams which cannot come true because of the deterioration of the Symbolic System. Although there are similarities between Simon and littluns, both represent Imaginary System but Simon's case is exceptional. He does not dwell in Imaginary System due to traumatizing conscious mind same as littluns but his role, is one of the manifestations of deep faith, goodness and spirituality. He never accept to join Jack's group or get into the case of being between two extremes good or evil like the behavior of other boys. When he comes to inform them about the evil everyone at the Island takes part in his killing because spirituality leads to wisdom and intellectuality. The following extract shows how the dead pig head confesses to Simon the reality of human nature: "*You knew, didn't you? I'm part of you?*" (Golding, 2001:143).

Thus, According to psychoanalytical perspective, Simon represents the Imaginary system due to his role in the novella. Jack's behavior is one of the manifestation Real. The notion which ensures the lack of relationship between Imaginary System and Real is that Simon is not in touch with Jack and his follower but there are mutual relationships between Ralph and Simon and Ralph who represent Symbolic Order. The following extract is a patent example, attributing both characters to Symbolic Order. They reject all types of acts, resulted from Jack and Roger's behaviours. At the end of the novel, Ralph realizes that loss of innocence is a product of evil force, existed within human psyche. "*Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of a true, wise friend called Piggy*" (Golding, 2001:202). Ralph and Piggy complete each other to construct the Symbolic Order. The former stands-in for law and the latter stands-in for technology. These quality constitute the civilized aspect of human existence.

4 Conclusion

Lord of Flies is a fertile ground novella to be studied from psychoanalytical perspective. The paper explore it from the Lacanian three psychic Orders, Real, Imaginary Order and Symbolic Order. In the analysis, the imbalance in these three Orders within the characters' psyche result personality disorder which is characterized by illusion and lack of wisdom and intellectuality. It is observed that littluns are traumatized by Real. For this reason, they experience scary illusionary images and nightmares. Simon stands for Imaginary Order which is allegorically eliminated by the trauma of Real. The Order of Real does not only devastate the Imaginary Order as clarified in the event of Simon's murder but also, it attempts to destroy the

Symbolic Order, represented by Ralf and Piggy. Through the course of the novella, the symbols of the Symbolic Order witness repression by those who have got a shock from Real. These symbols are the signal fire, conch shell, and Piggy's glasses. The signal fire is misused; one of Piggy's glasses is broken when Jack hit him; the conch shell is destroyed when Jack followers release the boulder to fall on Piggy and kills him. Thus, the Symbolic Order collapses due to traumas of conscious mind on the part of Jack and his followers, and trauma of the Real on the part of littluns.

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