



The Overt and Covert Notions in Dorothy Allison's *Bastard Out of Carolina* (1993)

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ABSTRACT

With reference to Dorothy Allison's *Bastard Out of Carolina*, the research aims to uncover the true emotions revealed through body language. Body language is crucial to the novel because Allison focuses on it in her narration. Most individuals cannot speak truth because fear permeates their conversation.

The research's foundation is the psychoanalysis theory of Freud. This scientific discipline primarily focuses on facial expressions, head and arm motions, ocular gestures, and mouth expressions. In deception, physiological responses can disclose the truth. In the novel, Bone and her mother, Anney, suffer under the control of a tyrannical individual. They hide their emotions deep inside their psyches, creating a contradiction in their behaviour. Unconsciously, their nonverbal language stands in contrast with their fake situation. Stress shows in their communications. They start with artificial grins, lies, and deception. When things get worse, their nonverbal language matches their words. Bone intuitively discovers her stepfather's hidden force.

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Keywords: body language, consciousness, unconsciousness, gestures, non-verbal language, verbal language, psychoanalysis theory

الظاهر والخفي من الافكار في رواية (ابنة غير شرعية خارج كارولينا)

للكاتبة دوروثي اليسون (1993)

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وزارة التربية، المديرية العامة لتربية واسط

المُستخلص

يهدف البحث إلى كشف المشاعر الحقيقية لأبطال رواية (ابنة غير شرعية خارج كارولينا) للكاتبة دوروثي اليسون. لغة الجسد هي السائدة في هذه الرواية. الروائية اليسون تعطي أهمية بالغة للغة الجسد بسرديتها كاشفة بذلك عن مشاعر الشخصيات الحقيقية ومنجزة مخططا لقصة حقيقية. ولا يخفى ما لأهمية لغة الجسد من أثر مهم في الحياة اليومية. تقدم معظم الروايات جوانب من الحقيقة، لكن الجانب المهم هو ما تقدمه لغة الجسد. فعن طريق دراسة لغة الجسد نصل إلى موضوع الراوي الذي يريد أن يوصله للقارئ. ويريد الراوي أن يقول لنا عن طريق لغة الجسد تظهر حقيقة المشاعر التي لا يستطيع الناس إظهارها لاعتبارات تتعلق بالموافق والمجتمع. يركز البحث على نظرية التحليل النفسي للعالم فرويد التي يشير بها أن الإيماءات وحركات الجسد هي تعبير خفي للحقيقة التي لا تقال .

ومن هنا كان للكلام أن يكون ناقلا لنصف الحقيقة. ونصف الحقيقة الآخر مخبأ خلف حركات الجسد. عن طريق علاقة بطله الرواية (بون) بزوج أمها الطاعي والخوف المهيم على علاقتها بزوج أمها، يبرز تناقض الأقوال مع الأفعال مع المشاعر. عن طريق دراسة لغة الجسد، تظهر الإيماءات متناقضة مع الأكاذيب. الابتسامات الزائفة، الشفاه المزمومة، الأكاذيب والخداع كانوا أول ما تفتتح به الرواية. بون بإحساسها الغريزي، تكشف زيف زوج أمها (غلين). في النهاية تتطابق الأفعال مع الأقوال ليجد القارئ نفسه في مواجهة الحقيقة التي أخفاها الرعب والتردد.

الكلمات المفتاحية: لغة الجسد، الوعي، اللاوعي، الإيماءات، اللغة اللفظية، اللغة غير المنطوقة، نظرية التحليل النفسي.

Introduction

Dorothy Allison was born in April 1949 in South Carolina. She was the first child born to a young woman who was living alone. Her father died when she was a child, leaving her family poor, so the mother, Ruth Gibson Allison, has to work to pay her bills. As a child of five, the girl was sexually abused by her stepfather. The bad effect lasted until the child was eleven years old. One of the bad effects of the unpleasant event was gonorrhoea, which kept her from getting married (Adams, 2004, p. 87). Allison contributed three collections of poetry, a novel, and short stories. Additionally, she composed prose. She was awarded the

Independent Spirit Award in 1998. She composed *Bastard out of Carolina* as a biography of her journey towards sublimation.

Freud is widely recognised as a pioneer in the study of subconscious and conscious thinking, elucidating the mechanisms inherent in the human psyche. Freud psychoanalytical theory concentrates on the abnormal behaviors of adults. He contended that verbal missteps and conduct are essential for comprehending human objectives. Freud's psychoanalytic theory employs a therapeutic approach

designed to treat mental problems by examining the interplay between conscious and unconscious components of the mind. Psychoanalysis identifies the most intimate fears of individuals. Through his analysis, Freud came to the conclusion that the actual motivations were communicated through body language rather than verbal communication. To phrase it another way, he ensured that the unintentional influence on people's lives would be significant (Fromkin, 1973, p. 83). Freud elucidated the relationship between individuals concealed ideas and their observable behaviors. Freud's perspective was innovative in acknowledging that neurotic behavior is purposeful rather than arbitrary or devoid of meaning (Hossain, 2017, p. 41). To put it differently, psychoanalytic theories posit that there are unconscious internal states that drive an individual's observable behaviors (Monte, 1977, p. 8). There is a difference in the intents of individuals, despite the fact that they may express a particular sentiment. Freud and many who followed in his footsteps advocated for the idea that lapses are representations of the hidden motivations of persons (Roback, 1919, p. 274). He asserted that a married woman was wearing her wedding band on and off her finger without her knowledge. While she is saying this, she is also claiming that she is happy in her relationships. The news of her divorce does not come as a surprise to Freud (Pease, 1988, p. 5).

Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961), a subsequent scholar of Freudian psychology, modifies his perspective to align with his own social context in the interpretation of psychoanalysis. Jung identifies fundamental human tendencies in myths and stories. A subsequent evolution of psychoanalysis incorporated Alfred Adler (1870-1937), who saw humans as inherently social beings. According to Adler, our motivations stem from social requirements; we possess self-awareness and the ability to enhance both ourselves and our environment. Consequently, we may discern that the domain of 'Psychoanalysis and Literature' serves as the primary 'mediator' between the two disciplines. Psychoanalysis emphasized motives, concentrating on concealed or disguised motivations that elucidate literature on two levels: the level of the writing itself and the level of character actions within the text. Psychoanalysis emphasizes the subject and seeks to elucidate the link between meaning, identity, and the psychic and cultural processes. Psychoanalysis holds significant relevance in modern interpretations of reading, meaning, and the relationship between literature and culture. In literature, the psychoanalysis conceptions are used to interpret literary works. In other words, psychoanalytic criticism examines the mental structures of authors and their personalities as reflected in their fictional works. Psychoanalysis fundamentally posits that past experiences and repressed feelings shape an individual's conduct. The unconsciousness, a deep layer of the psyche, stores these previous incidents,

which individuals' obvious conduct will reveal. Psychoanalysis and literature share a mutual relation, as literature expresses feelings related to past events (Hossain, 2017, p. 41).

According to Allan Pease (1988), body language is a form of nonverbal communication. Nonverbal communication is the primary mode of communication in daily life. In other words, approximately 7 percent of the messages that individuals convey are verbal. Additionally, verbal communication accounts for 38% of the messages that individuals receive. Fifty-five percent of them are communicated nonverbally. Messages can be effectively communicated by individuals who modulate their body language. The genuine sentiments of individuals can be revealed through nonverbal communication. Therefore, body language is more revealing of the authenticity of intentions than verbal communication. In certain situations, individuals may be unable to express their true emotions due to apprehension or reticence. Information regarding weather, history, and news can be communicated through verbal language, free from personal bias. An expert can convey their authentic thoughts through facial expressions and body language. Additionally, individuals may deceive others; however, their body language will disclose the reality. The main aim of body language is to promote positive interactions among individuals (Beattie, 2004, p. 20). Individuals express affection for others or objects via body language. Nonverbal communication expresses an individual's emotions regarding people and objects, whereas verbal communication transmits information. In *Two or three things I know for sure*, Allison (1996) writes, "behind the story I tell is the one I don't. Behind the story you hear is the one I wish I could make you hear" (p.23). By observing the physical expressions of her characters, she conveys truthful nonverbal clues. Allison describes in her autobiography, *Bastard out of Carolina*, the inner turmoil she felt as a child after surviving a horrific sexual assault, as well as her true feelings and thoughts towards the home she now calls her own. The character of Bone is an incarnation of Allison's real suffering from past events, which left deep scars in her unconsciousness.

Literature Review

In any literary work, the dialogue is the dominant factor in understanding a character's intentions, which misleads the reality of feelings. Body language gives more accurate comprehension of what goes on in the novel. Previous studies emphasize external dialogues that fail to convey internal emotions without noticing body language. The researchers focus on the exterior dialogue rather than the protagonist's underlying thoughts clarified by their body language. The issue lies in the lack of harmony between verbal language and non-verbal cues (Shafiq, 2021, p. 265). Therefore, the research reduces the gap between spoken and non-spoken language. Nonverbal cues communicate authentic feelings of retribution when circumstances are unsuitable for articulation. The issue at hand was how these writers

bridged the gap between verbal and non-verbal language (Taylor, 2008, p. 2). Despite that, they assert that both body language and verbal language complement each other. Furthermore, they assert that human communication encompasses not only verbal language but also facial expressions, widely recognized as a highly effective means of expressing emotions (Neama & Al-Husseini, 2014, p. 707). Consequently, a distinction exists between words and their intended significance. The differentiation between verbal and non-verbal communication is essential to this study, given that the primary mode of communication is non-verbal. Verbal communication conveys an explicit meaning, but nonverbal communication conveys an implicit one. The disparity between verbal and nonverbal communication is the root of the problem. Research indicates that nonverbal communication is the most reliable evidence for conveying authentic emotions and meanings. Rephrased, it explores meanings that transcend spoken communication. The synchronisation between body language and speech provides insight into the thoughts and events occurring in the narrative. Also, the researchers assert that human communication encompasses not only verbal language but also facial expressions, widely recognised as a highly effective means of expressing emotions (p. 707). Studies have shown that nonverbal cues are the most reliable indicators of how someone is really feeling or what they are trying to convey. In other terms, it explores interpretations that go beyond mere verbal expression. The underlying truths and subtle motifs of the narratives are conveyed through the characters' non-verbal communication.

Methodology

The research's foundation is the psychoanalysis approach. Psychoanalysis is a contemporary theory employed in English writing. It is a theory concerning the organization and dynamics of personality that informs psychoanalysis. This psychological analysis has emerged as a method to uncover the latent significance of a literary work. It also aids in examining the intrinsic amalgamation of the writer's personality as elements that influence his experiences from infancy to the time of composing a work. The objective of psychoanalysis was to demonstrate that behavior is influenced by the relationship between the unconscious and consciousness (Hossain, 2017, p. 41). Freud provides examples of the workings of the unconscious mind. He deciphers the concepts hidden in the unconscious. (Fromkin, 1973, p. 8). He is particularly concerned with how the body gestures match the verbal language. His focus facilitated the development of body language research. This scientific discipline primarily focuses on facial expressions, head and arm motions, ocular gestures, and mouth expressions. Nonverbal communication unveils the true essence of people's actions. The nuances of body language reveal the unspoken truths that convey the underlying significance of individuals' behaviors (Hartley and Karinch, 2007, pp. 21-22). The movements of people's hands and arms are the key to

comprehending different people's mental processes (Beattie, 2004, p. 1). When all else fails, the observer can always rely on non-verbal clues to help them decipher the reality (Pease, 1988, pp. 5-6).

Body Language and the Unhealed Wounds in *Bastard Out of Carolina*

The speech signifies the midpoint of the narrative. Consequently, comprehending the characters in *Bastard Out of Carolina* necessitates an exploration of their genuine inner emotions, which often stand in stark contrast to their spoken words. To achieve this, utilizing non-verbal communication is essential. Ruth Anne Boatwright is the protagonist and the illegitimate child of a single mother. The child is named Bone. The child endures identity loss from an early age due to being a bastard. Her mother becomes restless when anticipating Bone. Consequently, she perpetually experiences gastrointestinal distress (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 1). Webster (2014) posited that an upset stomach serves as an indication of a troubled mind and a reluctance to embrace novel concepts or perspectives (p.106). From the very beginning, Bone is an unwelcome presence in Mother's life, which results in a lasting scar on Bone's future. Bone suffers from repression because of the tyrannical stepfather and the careless mother. Consequently, she cannot explain her feelings verbally. Instead, her body language exposes her true feelings and notions. The bad relationships and the tyrannical authorities cause repression and silence among individuals. Silence is the response to something unusual or strange, which causes shock for an individual, but the body continues to talk in non-verbal language (Navarro, 2018, p. 36).

A smile is a worldwide language to express happiness and joy. The normal smile is represented by wrinkled eyes and stretched lip corners. Individuals also smile when they feel anger or embarrassment. People may fake smiles to express intention in their minds. One can detect the fake smile by observing one side of the mouth. In other words, a half-smile is pretend (King, 2014, pp. 12-13). The characters in the narrative utilize their grins to convey concealed emotions and thoughts without verbal communication. Anney, the mother, tries to get a birth certificate for her daughter and the lively situation of the fake smile comes to light. The clerk asks for her husband, but she doesn't know who her child's real father is. Her fake smile shows how angry and embarrassed she is. Consequently, behind her gestures are deep repressed feelings of discomfort and hatred she tries to veil. A year later, the mother repeats her attempt to get a birth certificate for her child. She experiences tension when she faces a rejection. Despite that she tries to control herself, her body language shows evidence of her anger. Her face flushes, and she hardly breathes (Allison, Bastard, 1993, pp. 3-4). A flushed face is an indication of stress. Additionally, it displays an individual's tension, which results in bad behavior

(Kuhnke, 2016, pp. 24,84). Anney's anger intensifies when the women in the office engage in whispered conversations with pursed lips (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 5). Edwards (2013) suggests that individuals who purse their lips possess truth but are unable to articulate it. In other words, they attempt to obscure information and facts (p.84).

To attain success in their careers, individuals should utilize a smile, even if it is not sincere (Browne, 2018, p. 10). Anney's smile has the power to captivate anyone. Her employer informs her that her grin is the key to winning over customers. Though she lavishes her boss with praise, a profound melancholy lurks within her. In the courthouse, when Anney arrives to register her daughter, the clerk pretends to smile to appear friendly. He keeps his fake smile like a doll while delivering to Anney the certificate of birth of her illegitimate child. The difference is obvious between Anney's attractive smile and the hatred fake one of the clerk. Anney desires to curse, however she exerts considerable self-control. Her heart shatters as she departs from the office. Her family teaches her to accept what she cannot alter. She laughs with them before they laugh at her. She gives the impression that she is well-disposed, but in her deep feelings she has unreceptive and sad emotions. In short, her non-verbal language gives a contradicted impression of her personality (Allison, Bastard, 1993, pp. 8-10).

In accordance with Beckett and Rose (2017), an authentic smile discloses one's teeth. A smile that is closed-lipped lacks authenticity. Additionally, the expression of a genuine smile reveals the emergence of fine lines at the outer corners of the eyes. The open-lipped smile serves as an indication of concurrence (pp. 16,22). Glen notices Anney when she grins. Her teeth are sparkling, so her grin is genuine. She grins at the others, but it is forced since she is uncomfortable (Allison, Bastard, 1993, pp. 12-13).

Glen is introduced to Anney. Her encounter with Glen is a mystery to her. Her cheeks are flushed, and she is sweating. She is unable to comprehend her emotions. It is possible that she is looking for a companion on her journey. The fact that she is in need of a husband is a result of her biological requirements (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 13). When people are under a lot of pressure, they start to sweat. In the event that the stress is combined with sexual impulses, individuals will perspire and their cheeks will blush (Hartley and Karinch, 2007, p. 268). Anney's stress and obligations influence her nonverbal communication. Her shoulders are positioned backward in relation to her daughters. She weeps softly due to her worry of her future with Glen. Moreover, she seeks to ensure the safety of her two young girls (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 36). Based on Lowen (1983), shoulders indicate people's duties. Individuals who carry their shoulders bear responsibility. If people suppress their wrath and anxiety, they pull their shoulders back (pp. 93,215).

Tension is manifested through the eyes and necks of persons. The eye reflects the essence of a person's soul. Individuals can engage and communicate with people through their eyes. People who avoid eye contact considered as liars (Wezowski & Wezowski, p. 169). Aunt Alma uncovers Glen's genuine psychology when she informs Anney that he gazes at her peculiarly, akin to an animal. Out of the corner of his eye, Glen peers at Aunt Alma. Aunt Alma scrutinizes Glen's concealed malevolent intentions from the initial encounter. He refrains from making eye contact with Aunt Alma (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 37). Aunt Alma's admonition foreshadows Anney's future with Glen. There is no other area of the body that is more significant than the neck because even a single cut might result in fatal hemorrhage. Accordingly, fighters always make an effort to protect their necks. Tension always appears in the muscles of fighters' necks (King, 2014, p. 79). Furthermore, stress generates neck tension. A stiff neck signals hyper-vigilance and alertness (Navarro, 2018, pp. 22,60). The tension in Anney's neck indicates that she is carrying around pent-up stress. Her eyes convey long-held anguish and hopes. Conversely, Glen's eyes were expressionless (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 43). Consequently, there are signs that reveal the bleak prospects for Anney with Glen.

The individuals' eyelids serve as windows into their underlying anxiety and nervousness. The act of blinking one's eyes may suggest a lack of engagement with the discourse presented by others. Besides, it serves as an indication that the individual is experiencing anxiety and nervousness (King, 2014, p. 77). The quaking of individuals' physiques signifies their profound trepidation (Glass & Sullivan, 2012, p. 61). There is a clear indication from Bone's nonverbal communication that she is apprehensive with Glen. He talks to her in his car, and all she does is blink her eyes and nod her head to indicate that she is listening without making a sound. She does not pay attention to what Glen has to say but instead stares up at the stars. Specifically, she is concerned about her mother and the impending arrival of a new kid. Bone's anxiety level rises whenever he comes into contact with her. Fear of what he does causes her uneasiness to become more intense. Her bowels shake, indicating that she is quite terrified, " I blinked at him and nodded ... , he talked on, whispering quietly, sometimes so softly I could not understand him" (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 46). The occurrence of this event marks the beginning of Anney and Bone's bleak prospective.

The Sombre Prospects and the Nonverbal Expression of Fear

In the event that individuals lie, their bodies are unable to lie. They reveal their intentions through their gestures alone. The mouth is crucial in exposing persons' identities. People with closed lips

indicate that they want to cover their sadness or sour faces (Williams, 2020, p. 10). Blocking lips indicates that people have something causing fear or lack of confidence (Navarro, 2018, p. 86). Moreover, Hartley and Karinch (2007) assert that pursed lips indicate to others the need to cease or alter their discussion regarding a particular subject (p. 119). Glen tightens his lips as he hears the conversation directed at the two children. He desires for them to heed solely his words. He intends to practice manipulating the two little girls. He insists that they keep their distance from their relatives, characterizing them as the most terrible individuals on the planet. He asserts his intention to assist the two children by insisting on their portion of the inheritance. He informs Anney while repeatedly rubbing the back of his neck and looks through the window (Allison, Bastard, 1993, pp. 52, 56). E. Lawton (2006) detects that the act of rubbing the back of the neck indicates that individuals have reached their limit of engagement and are disinterested in the ongoing discourse (p.16). Additionally, the act of rubbing the back of one's neck suggests that the individual is experiencing anger, which is indicative of a negative emotional state (King, 2014, p. 34). According to Pease (1988), individuals who shun eye contact and massage the backs of their necks while conversing are deceivers (p.48). Glen fabricates his assertion; his objective is to exact retribution against Anney's relatives. When Matthew shows up to ask for Anney's signature, Anney learns Glen's plan. Anney is instructed by Glen not to sign any of these documents while he is away. She scowls and gives a tense nod (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 57). As a representation of their unwillingness, King (2014) asserts that people who are upset or annoyed will frown without uttering any words (p.13).

The relationship between Anney and Glen remained, albeit in part. Moving from house to house frequently is a sign of instability and a sign that their relationship will continue to worsen. Another way that people grow spiritually distant from one another is when they scream at one another. Aside from that, Glen needs money after losing his job. There has been no change in Anney and Glen's physical contact. In response to Anney's desire to provide financial assistance to Glen, Glen yells at her. As time goes on, the relationship with Anney starts to worsen. Glen separates himself from his wife for a period of many weeks. A mental illness is afflicting Glen. The loss of his work adds to his stress levels. Redness has spread across his face as he yells at his wife (Allison, Bastard, 1993, pp. 64-69). The face reflects the individual's character. A flushed face could be a sign of stress and anger (Lowen, 1983, p. 55). The moment Glen lets out a scream, Anney's complexion turns pale, and she stops moving in her position (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 69). Both a sudden pale complexion and a frozen stance are signs that the individual is experiencing great anxiety and terror (Glass & Sullivan, 2012, p. 61). Resuming his rush, he tries to apologies to her. Her contempt is evident from her body language. She shoves him

away. Her fear makes her saying words she does not mean them. Her anxiety causes her to speak words she does not mean. She struggled with her motivations (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 69). Alienating individuals constitutes a detrimental mindset and conduct, and it signifies a deterioration of rapport (Kuhnke, 2016, p. 35). In the next few days, Glen's true self will be shown through his fake kindness.

Silent Tongues Reveals the Desires That Dwell Within: The Smooth and Hard Touches.

When it comes to dealing with the outside world, our hands are the most important part of our body. Thus, they stand for the intimacy and propensity of humanity (King, 2014, p. 29). Through touch, people may instinctively distinguish between hostile and kind behaviors. Women view touching as a sign of friendliness, sympathy, and empathy. There are also both deliberate and accidental touches. The manner in which someone touches convey their attitude. Because touching someone inappropriately could be seen as offensive behavior, people must be mindful about how and where they touch others. (Andrews, 2016, pp. 11-13). Bone gets a bruise when Glen grasps her with his strong hand. Glen is to blame for what he did, as her mother can see. His touch makes it clear that he is up to no good with the scared child. The sight of his uncontrollable hands is Bone's worst fear. His speech stands in stark contrast to the physical gestures and forceful touches that convey his nonverbal communication. Glen has control over her bleak future (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 70).

People's intimacy and openness are revealed by their hands and arms. For example, by placing their hands beneath their arms, they symbolize people's defensive posture (King, 2014, pp. 29,40). Anney's hands reveal her adoration for Glen upon his arrival in the kitchen. She positions her hands under her arms and informs him that her girls are starving while he merely smokes and concocts lies. The emotional bond she experiences is on the verge of transforming into a physical separation. She drives her car to visit her relative, disregarding Glen. Bone experiences profound fear because of her stepfather. She uncovers his genuine intents by the firm grasp of his powerful hands. Bone instinctively perceives the creature concealed within his psyche. Nonetheless, Glen continues to assert that all will be well following the family's relocation to a new residence. He is aware that he has lost the trust of everyone, particularly Bone and her sister. They avert their eyes, perceiving his look as malevolent. To boost her daughters' confidence, Anney tells them that they are not poor. Wordlessly, they nod their heads, unbelieving of what their mother says. Their terror and hunger render them speechless. The air is heavy with stillness (Allison, Bastard, 1993, pp. 73-82).

According to Pease (1988), slapping is a socially inappropriate act that communicates rejection of another person (p. 21). Webster admitted that severe anger causes the face to become pale because blood is redirected to other parts of the body (p. 28). Bone grows dubious and wary of Glen's physical contact. Glen's body language makes it clear what his true intentions are towards Bone. He harshly touches her body to tell her not to run like a horse. He insults Bone, despite Anney's claims that he loves her kids " Glen loves me, loves my girls" (Allison, Bastard, 1993, p. 37). He becomes so furious that his face is too pale. He uses his belt to torment Bone. Anney no longer thinks of him because of what he did. Anney snatches her daughter away from him and gives him a slap. Anney's nonverbal communication aligns with her verbal communication. Her fear dissipates, " she cursed him" (p. 106). Courage and confrontation replace dread and withdrawal. Eventually, Anney's courage does not last to the end. The tyrannical husband convinces Anney to leave her daughter in the hospital and run away with him " there was an envelope on my lap. Mama had put it there. She leaned forward and kissed my cheek just below where Nevil had kissed me... I almost cried out. Mama's finger touched my lips. Her eyes burned into me" (p.308). Bone has to accept her destiny as an independent person living her life without parents " I was who I was going to be, someone like her, like Mama, a Boatwright woman" (p.309).

Conclusion

Speaking marks the halfway point of the story. The other half of it is unveiled through nonverbal language. When individuals engage in deception, their physiological responses often reveal the truth. Unconscious emotions will be revealed through nonverbal communication. Body language plays a significant role in conveying messages during everyday communication. Most novels focus on conversations that reveal some aspects of the truth. Understanding the truth occurs through the study of nonverbal language. In most cases, people cannot utter words because of their environment. Their fear dominates their conversation.

Nonverbal language is a critical aspect of the novel. Dorothy Allison narrates her autobiography, concentrating on the body language. She wants to convey the reality of characters' emotions and the true story she wants to tell. Bone and her mother, Anney, suffer under the control of a tyrannical individual. There is a discrepancy between their actual feelings and their actions because they conceal their emotions deep within their psyches. Their nonverbal communication is at odds with the fabricated circumstances they present. Stress is obvious in their communications. In the beginning, they display fake smiles, pursed lips, untrue words, and false conducts. But when it gets worse, their nonverbal language harmonizes with their conversations. Through her intuition, Bone uncovers the hidden force

within her stepfather. Anney's spiritual distance increases with Glen. As the situation unfolds, their body language and the unspoken words align seamlessly.

Allison, in her biography, persuades her reader that she presents a narrative, yet there exists a deeper reality beyond the narrative she conveys. The authentic feelings and ideas are revealed through the body language of her characters.

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