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وزارة التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي
جامعة الأنبار



مجلة جامعة الأنبار للغات والآداب

مجلة علمية فصلية محكمة
تعنى بدراسات وأبحاث اللغات وآدابها

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Bullying and Suffering into the Life of the Main Character in Stephen King's *Carrie*

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ABSTRACT:

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The objectives of this study are to investigate Stephen King's *Carrie's* bullying topic and how it affects the protagonist as well as to evaluate Carrie's psychological pain brought on by social and familial persecution. The study also seeks to investigate the ways in which trauma affects Carrie's conduct and personality development throughout the novel. In addition to that, it draws attention to the story's link between social isolation and negative outcomes. To fulfill these objectives, this study adopts the themes of pain and bullying in Stephen King's *Carrie* using a qualitative approach based on textual analysis. It centers on Carrie White, the protagonist who faces social and psychological challenges. It also requires carefully reading key passages in the novel that depict emotional abuse at home and bullying at school. The impact of these events on Carrie's personality and behavior is examined from a psychological and sociological perspectives. The major findings show that King tries to show the danger of bullying on both the victimizers and the victimized. The study concludes the tragic end when Carrie uses telekinetic power to kill all the people who hurt her. So, King shows the horrific effects of bullying and suffering on the oppressors and the oppressed as well.

Keywords: Bullying, Classmates at school, Menstruation, Suffering.

التنمر والمعاناة في حياة الشخصية الرئيسية في رواية كاري ل ستيفن كينغ

م. نور سعدي عيسى

مديرة تربية ديالى، ديالى، العراق

المستخلص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى بحث موضوع التنمر في رواية "كاري" لستيفن كينغ، وكيف يؤثر على بطلة الرواية، بالإضافة إلى تقييم الألم النفسي الذي تعانيه كاري نتيجة الاضطهاد الاجتماعي والعائلي. كما تسعى الدراسة إلى بحث الطرق التي تؤثر بها الصدمة على سلوك كاري وتطور شخصيتها طوال الرواية. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تسلط الضوء على صلة القصة بين العزلة الاجتماعية والنتائج السلبية. ولتحقيق هذه الأهداف، تتبنى هذه الدراسة موضوعي الألم والتنمر في رواية "كاري" لستيفن كينغ باستخدام منهج نوعي قائم على تحليل النصوص. وتركز على كاري وايت، بطلة الرواية التي تواجه تحديات اجتماعية ونفسية. كما تتطلب قراءة متأنية لمقاطع رئيسية في الرواية تصور الإساءة العاطفية في المنزل والتنمر في المدرسة. ويتم فحص تأثير هذه الأحداث على شخصية كاري وسلوكها من منظور نفسي واجتماعي. وتُظهر النتائج الرئيسية أن كينغ يحاول إظهار خطر التنمر على كل من الجناة والضحايا وتخلص الدراسة إلى النهاية المأساوية عندما تستخدم كاري قوة التحريك الذهني لقتل جميع الأشخاص الذين آذوها. وهكذا، يُظهر كينغ الآثار المروعة للتنمر والمعاناة على الظالمين والمظلومين على حد سواء.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التنمر، الزملاء في المدرسة، الطمث، المعاناة.

Introduction

Bullying is a repeated action which hurts someone emotionally or physically. It is also a kind of aggression which includes teasing, making threats, and physical assault (Craig, 1998). In this concern, it is stated that:

Many people are bullied as teenagers or, a minimum, feel like outsiders. They are too fat or too ugly or too dumb. Or maybe they just aren't popular enough to feel comfortable inside their own skin. With the power to destroy their tormentors, would they do it? (Sivaranjani and Mary, 2021, p.1229).

Bullying takes the form of subtle actions, words, or physical contact. It is also an intentional or repeated hostile behaviour which causes other's discomfort or injury. In addition to that, suffering can be defined as a conscious acceptance of pain or trouble. It happens when a person confronts confusion or disturbance and tries to resist for a long time. It is also the way people treat adversity, loss, pain, and depression (Cassell, 1991). Hence, suffering is the state of being unhappy when rejecting the severe reality. It can be psychological, mental, physical, and emotional.

Stephen King was born in 1947, in Portland, Maine. He is the second son in the family. He graduated from the high school in 1966. He wrote a school newspaper every week. He had a degree of B.A in English in 1970. He got married in 1971, then, he taught at Hampden Academy. At that time, he wrote short stories and worked on novels (Cassell, 1991).

It is worth mentioning that Stephen King who is an American writer of supernatural fiction, horror, crime fiction, science fiction, and fantasy novels, tackles the themes of bullying and suffering in his writing especially in his bestseller novel *Carrie*. King's famous novel, *Carrie*, is his fourth novel but it is the first published one by the Doubleday in 1974 in the United States of America. Much of this novel is written in an epistolary form. *Carrie* is a Gothic novel and includes horror. Moreover, modern horror fiction cannot be completed without Stephen King's revolution. King has the ability to innovate stories in which the forms of evil happen in common situations. In this field, King is named "king of horror". He deals with the themes of sin, revenge, guilt, supernatural forces and sexuality in his writing. After the publication of *Carrie*, King presented his next novels: *The Shining*, *Salem's Lot*, *The Dead Zone*, and *The Stand*. King continues his writing till now (Wicaksono, 2015).

In 1972, an idea of a girl of telekinetic power came to King's mind, so he decided to write a short story in this concern. This idea had been appeared when King got an article about a poltergeist state in a suburban home. This state reminded King of the two girls at his teenage. The two girls were Sandra Irving and Tina White who got bullied at school due to their religion and ugly clothes they wore. Then, the two girls were destroyed. Sandra died by an epileptic attack and Tina committed suicide. In fact, King combined these two girls to present Carrie White. Carrie became the source of inspiration for King to go on with this premise (Adrees and Paliwal, 2023).

Carrie was adapted several times in films and became the touchstone of horror works. It was banned from Schools for its portrayal of sexuality, fundamentalist Christianity, and violent content. King won many awards for his horror literary works and a National Medal of the Arts after publishing 64 novels and more than 200 short stories (Adrees and Paliwal, 2023).

In the novel, the main character Carrie is a victim of family including her mother and a victim of society as well. The significant themes of *Carrie* are: bullying, destruction,

suffering, violence, death, sin, abuse, and isolation. Carrie's abuse by her mother at home and her bullying by her classmates at school are the main reasons behind the elements of horror in the novel. As a horror novel, *Carrie* is very influential in the American culture, It explores the hidden side of mind of people who get abused and bullied. The story of the novel is fictional, yet it has elements of realism. However, *Carrie* is a significant book for Stephen King (Wicaksono, 2015).

It is explored that a child would be aggressive for: "...faulty adaptation to the child, resulting in impingement of the environment so that the individual must become a reactor to that impingement. The sense of self is lost in this situation and is only regained by a return to isolation" (Winnicott, 2014, p. 222). So, Carrie fails to communicate the society and its cruel attitudes. Her lack of information about the phase of fertility by her mother causes her suffering. Moreover, the abuse of her mother and her experience of bullying by her classmates at school lead to her mental pain which turns to be destructive to both herself and the people around her.

Literature Review

Types of Bullying and Its consequences:

Bullying is a multifaceted phenomena that can take many different forms, such as verbal, physical, social (relational), and cyberbullying. Insults, humiliation, and repeated mockery are examples of verbal bullying; exclusion, rumors, and public humiliation are examples of social or situational bullying. Cyberbullying is a more modern type of bullying that takes place on social media and digital platforms. Because it is permanent and has a large audience, it exacerbates psychological injury. According to research, being subjected to these types of bullying can have serious psychological effects, including social disengagement, anxiety, despair, and even violent revenge (Olweus, 1993; Hinduja & Patchin, 2010). The main form of bullying experienced by the protagonist in Stephen King's *Carrie* is verbal and social, which eventually leads to widespread humiliation. These multifaceted types of victimization ultimately determine the tragic course of her life and play a major role in her psychological decline.

Literary Studies

Because of its psychological complexity and its depiction of misery, bullying, and female puberty, Stephen King's novel *Carrie* (1974) has drawn a lot of critical attention. Carrie White is portrayed by Stephen King as a socially reclusive adolescent who endures terrible bullying at school and emotional abuse at home. The novel offers a solid framework for examining the themes of psychological distress and victimization. A number of academics have looked at *Carrie* from various critical angles. According to Alexander's (1979) interpretation of the novel as a global fable, Carrie stands in for the oppressed person who suffers as a result of social rejection. According to this interpretation, bullying serves as both a personal assault and a mirror of the brutality of society.

In a similar style, Lindsey (1991) emphasizes horror and femininity, contending that Carrie's "monstrous puberty" represents the anxiety and misconceptions associated with female growth. This study links Carrie's suffering to societal pressure and gender norms, demonstrating how both family repression and bullying at school exacerbate her pain. Adrees and Paliwal (2023) use psychological theory to interpret *Carrie* from a psychoanalytic standpoint, highlighting the protagonist's internal conflict. Their research demonstrates how Carrie's destructive reaction is shaped by humiliation, anxiety, and repression. In a similar vein, Sivaranjani and Mary (2021) emphasize Carrie's emotional neglect and subsequent comeback by characterizing her as "a soul of no importance." The

claim that persistent humiliation and social exclusion can result in psychological collapse is supported by their analysis.

Cassell's (1991) analysis of the nature of suffering provides additional clarification on the notion. According to Cassell, suffering happens when a person feels that their identity and selfhood are in danger. Given that Carrie's identity, dignity, and sense of belonging are continuously threatened, this theoretical paradigm helps explain her emotional suffering. Craig (1998) examines bullying as a psychological and social phenomenon and shows the connection between school children's victimization, sadness, anxiety, and violence. Because Carrie's experiences mirror the psychological effects outlined in bullying research, this study is very pertinent to her character. It is possible to understand Carrie's aggression at the novel's conclusion as a reaction to ongoing mistreatment.

Additionally, Donald Winnicott's (2014) psychoanalytic theories offer a more profound comprehension of Carrie's emotional growth. Winnicott's ideas about the "true self" and emotional development aid in the explanation of how Carrie's harsh home environment—particularly her mother's control—prevents her from developing psychologically. Her fragile mental state is greatly exacerbated by her mother's lack of support. Lastly, Wicaksono (2015) highlights the moral and psychological aspects of the book in his assessment of Carrie, supporting the idea that it is a social critique of cruelty and prejudice in addition to being horror fiction.

In summary, prior research indicates that *Carrie* is a potent symbol of social isolation, psychological distress, and bullying. A solid basis for analyzing how bullying and emotional repression influence Carrie's tragic destiny is provided by the integration of literary criticism, psychoanalytic theory, and bullying research.

Research Gap

Few studies examine bullying in stories or novels, despite the fact that many discuss bullying and its impact on individuals. The majority of studies on Stephen King's *Carrie* concentrates on horror or gender issues rather than how various forms of bullying—such as verbal, social, or situational—affect Carrie. We still don't fully comprehend how her thoughts, emotions, and behaviors are influenced by these bullying events. This study will examine the various forms of bullying that Carrie experienced and demonstrate how they contributed to her pain and terrible outcome.

Research Questions

- What kinds of bullying does Carrie encounter in the novel?
- What effects do various types of bullying have on Carrie's feelings and actions?
- What role does bullying play in Carrie's pain and terrible results?

The Analysis of Bullying and Suffering in *Carrie's* Stephen King

In *Carrie*, Stephen King presents a picture of a seventeen years teenager girl, Carrie, who tests two kinds of conflict, internal and external one. In his novel, King concentrates on the main character, Carrie, who has telekinetic abilities. Carrie is bullied physically as well as emotionally, first by her mother at home, then by her classmates at school. Margaret White, Carrie's mother, mistreats Carrie violently. She regularly locks her daughter in the hallway closet, ordering her to pray for her sins. According to her fanatical belief, all women have the curse upon them, so she orders Carrie to ask God for forgiveness (Alexander, 1979). Hence, Carrie, who is treated

cruelly by her mother, confronts many psychological conflicts from the very beginning of the story.

Though the strong fanatic religious mother is sometimes caring and kind, yet she represents evil for Carrie. She wants Carrie to be like her and always obeys her. Otherwise, she punishes her by hitting Carrie's head on the Bible and pulling her to the closet. There, as usual, Carrie should ask for forgiveness for her sins. This severe image lasts until the end of the novel.

It is worth mentioning that Carrie first follows the religious beliefs as she always prays before the lunch meal at school. She also believes that all people go to hell if they don't express atonement. Carrie tries to be patient with her stricter mother that:

She had tried to fit. She had defied Momma in a hundred little ways, had tried to erase the red-pleague circle that had been drawn around her from the first day she had left the controlled environment of the small house on Carlin Street and had walked up to the Barker Street Grammar School with her Bible under her arm. She could still remember that day, the stares, and the sudden, awful silence when she had gotten down on her knees before lunch in the school cafeteria-the laughter had begun on that day and had echoed up through the years (King, 1974, p. 25).

However, Carrie is always locked in the closet by her mother for the sins she commits, according to her mother. This is stated in:

Pray to God and your sins may be washed away.”“Momma, you let me go.”“Pray, woman.”“I’ll make the stone come again, Momma.”Momma halted. Even her breath seemed to stop in her throat for a moment. And then the hand tightened on her neck, tightened, until Carrie saw red, lurid dots in front of her eyes and felt her brain go fuzzy and far-off.”“You spawn of the devil,” she whispered.”“Why was I so cursed?” (King, 1974, p. 49).

So, Carrie has to atone for sins that she has nothing to do with, she is sinful just because she exists in this life. Moreover, her punishment includes not only keeping her in the closet, but it lasts throughout her life.

At the age of seventeen, Carrie faces a big problem after the gym class. When getting her first menstrual period, she gets shocked and terrified that she is bleeding and doesn't know what bleeding means. Carrie gets panic and very frightened. Her classmates begin throwing tampons and sanitary towels on her and this is an embarrassing situation. In the shower, Carrie's bullying is initiated by Chris Hargensen who believes that Carrie deserves to be bullied as she is so lame. Actually, Carrie lacks knowledge and this lets her isolate herself. It is shown in this quotation:

Then the laughter, disgusted, contemptuous, horrified, seemed to rise and bloom into something jagged and ugly, and the girls were bombarding her with tampons and sanitary napkins, some from purses, some from the broken dispenser on the wall. They flew like snow and the chant became: “Plug it up, plug it up, plug it up, plug it (King, 1974, p.14-15).

So, Carrie is involved in conflict and this quotation also clarifies that:

What are you waiting for, Carrie? Doom? Bell in five minutes.” Her shorts were blinding white, her legs not too curved but college archery competition, hung around her neck. The girls giggled and Carrie looked up, her eyes slow and dazed from the heat and the steady, pounding roar of the water. “Ohuh?” It was a strangely froggy sound, grotesquely apt, and the girls giggled again. Sue Snell had whipped a towel from her hair with the speed of a magician embarking on a wondrous feat and began to comb rapidly. Miss Desjardin made an irritated cranking gesture at Carrie and stepped out. Carrie turned off the shower. It died in a drip and a gurgle. It wasn’t until she stepped out they all saw the blood running down her leg (King, 1974, p.13).

As far as bullying and suffering are concerned, the novel focuses on how far Carrie's behaviour can be changed by environment. It includes some forms of bullying as social, verbal, and physical ones. It also focuses on the boundaries that the victims get, like: depression, revenge, anxiety, and loneliness. Carrie suffers from victimization at home and bullying at school. Accordingly, it is argued that:

“Bullying is commonly an aggressive behavior because of the imbalance power within a group. Bullying occurs when a group of people disrupt a person’s physical or psychological condition and is done continuously. Insulting, changing nicknames, or even isolating the victims of bullying by ignoring and leaving them outcast or teased are also included in the practice of bullying” (Wicaksono, 2015).

During turning back home, Carrie thinks of her classmates' bullying especially that of Chris Hargensen that:

They all hate and they never stop. They never get tired of it. A penny lodged in a crack. She kicked it. Imagine Chris Hargensen all bloody and screaming for mercy. With rats crawling all over her face. Good. Good. That would be good. A dog turd with foottrack in the middle of it. A roll of blackened caps that some kid had banged with a stone. Cigarette butts. Crash in hear head with a rock, with a boulder. Crash in all their heads. Good. Good (King, 1974, p. 24).

Carrie has no enough courage to confront Chris. She only thinks of a way to avenge herself against Chris, expecting that the latter will be hurt.

Carrie is described as ugly, clumsy, and not beautiful: "Carrie stood among them stolidly a frog among swans" (King, 1974, p. 10). Carrie always pretends to be independent by her appearance of little make up and hanging her hair down. Her weird appearance makes the girls around get disgusted that:

She caught a glimpse of her own face in the tiny mirror she had hung on the back of the door, a mirror with a cheap green plastic rim, good only for combing hair by. She hated her face, her dull, stupid, bovine face, the vapid eyes, the red, shiny pimples, the nests of black heads. She hated her face most of all (King, 1974, p. 39).

So, Carrie's appearance is disapproved by the people around. She looks spiritless to confront her everyday life.

The shower scene clarifies that though Carrie is young, she doesn't represent the beauty of her age as she is mocked by her classmates:

"The catcall came first from Chris Hargensen"" For God's sake Carrie, you got your period! ... Clean yourself up!" "Carrie backed into the side of one of the four large shower compartment and slowly collapsed into a sitting position. (...) her eyes rolled with wet whiteness, like the eyes of a hog in the slaughtering pen" (King, 1974, p. 13-15).

In addition to that, the troublesome mother restricts her daughter to the extent that she is forbidden to play with the other children. Therefore, the mother gets angry when finding out that her daughter showers with other classmates. This is exemplified here:

She turned her glittering, magnified eyes upon her daughter. "Go to your closet now. "No!" She felt her breath go thick with terror. "Go to your closet. Pray in secret. Ask forgiveness for your sin. "I didn't sin, Momma. You sinned. You didn't tell me and they laughed" (King, 1974, p. 48).

However, after the gym class, Carrie speaks to her mother as a scared girl and blames her for not getting Carrie education concerning the menstruation period. She also discusses her mother here:

Momma closed the door behind her. "You're a woman" she said softly. Carrie felt her face twisting and crumpling and could not help it. "Why didn't you tell me?" she cried. "Oh Momma, I was so scared! And the girls all made fun and threw things and" Momma had been walking toward her, and now her hand flashed with sudden limber speed, a hard hand, laundry-callused and muscled. It struck her backhand across the jaw and Carrie fell down in the doorway between the hall and the living room, weeping loudly (King, 1974, p. 46).

This shows that the mother treats her daughter rudely and insists on forbidding her from any normal knowledge or communication. This is revealed here:

"Momma!" she shrieked. "Momma, please listen! It wasn't my fault". "Bow your head," momma said. "Let us pray. "You should have told me"! Momma brought her hand down on the back of Carrie's neck, and behind it was all the heavy muscle developed by eleven years of slinging heavy laundry bags and trucking piles of wet sheets. Carrie's an eye-bulging face jerked forward and her forehead smacked the altar, leaving mark and making the candles tremble" Let us pray," Momma said softly, implacably, weeping and snuffling, Carrie bowed her head. A runner of snot hung pendulously from her nose and she wiped it away (if i had a nickel for every time she made me cry here) with the back of her hand (King, 1974, p. 48).

This description refers to that Margaret suffers mental disorder. She is a strange mother who differs from other mothers. Her behaviour towards Carrie expresses her insanity and rudeness. In fact, Carrie is forbidden from growing up. When meeting a previous neighbour, Stella Horan, Carrie tells her that she doesn't have breasts even if she grows up. she has to be a good girl having no breasts according to her mother's fanatical belief that is not existed in the Bible. In this respect, Stella's response to Carrie is that: "...she looked at me defiantly and said that her momma had been bad when she made her and that was why she had them. She called them dirty pillows, as

if it was all one word" (King, 1974, p. 30). So, Carrie is forbidden from natural sexual development.

Margaret, who considers pregnancy and sexuality as a sin and quite evil, aborts her first child. When getting pregnant with Carrie, she tries to get rid of her, yet Carrie survived. So, Margaret hates Carrie and tries to kill her many times but she fails. The verbal and physical fight between the mother and the daughter ends with Carrie's use of her telekinetic power, getting big stones fall on Margaret White's property as a reaction. This quotation states the situation:

News item from the Westover (Me.) weekly Enterprise, August 19, 1966: RAIN OF STONES REPORTED. It was reliably reported by several persons that a rain of stones fell from a clear blue sky on Carlin Street in the town of Chamberlain on August 17th. The stones fell principally on the home of Mrs. Margaret White, damaging the roof extensively and ruining two gutters and a downspout valued at approximately \$25... (King, 1974, p. 11).

Carrie lacks education from her mother that she is bleeding and has no idea about menstruation period. She is the victim of jokes and ridicule. Carrie shrieked when sue tells her that:

You're bleeding!" Sue yelled suddenly, furiously. "You're bleeding, you big dumb pudding!" Carrie looked down at herself. She shrieked. The sound was very loud in the humid locker room (King, 1974, p. 14).

Even though, Sue snell cares secretly about Carrie. Though she once bullies Carrie as other friends, yet she feels guilty and changes completely. Sue recognizes Carrie's innocence. So, to amend for Carrie, Sue asks Tommy Ross who is her boyfriend to invite Carrie to the prom night instead of her. Sue decides to present happiness to Carrie. She tries to alleviate Carrie, this is indicated in this quotation:

Wait. Just wait. Let me talk. You want me to ask Carrie White to the Spring Ball. Okay, I got that. But there's a couple of things I don't understand." "Name them." She leaned forward. "First, what a good would it do? And second, what makes you think she'd say yes if I asked her?" "Not say yes! Why-" She floundered. "You're . . . everybody likes you and... (King, 1974, p. 66-67).

Carrie lives in a Christian home with her very controlling mother. The conflict between Carrie and her mother also happens when she asks her mother to let her join the prom night which is at her school. But, the mother immediate response is "No" because it represents evil for her, as it is shown:

"Momma?" "Yes?" Carrie plunged. "I've been invited to the Spring Ball next Friday by Tommy Ross-" The tract was forgotten. Momma was staring at her with wide my-ears-are-deceiving-me eyes. Her nostrils flared like those of a horse that has heard the dry rattle of a snake. Carrie tried to swallow an obstruction and only (i am not afraid 0 yes i am) got rid of part of it. "-and he's a very nice boy. He's promised to stop in and meet you before and-""-to have me in by eleven. I've-"" "No, no, no!" (King, 1974, p. 75-76).

This expresses that Carrie's mother obliges her daughter to withdraw from the outsider world or society. In addition to that, Carrie has no confidence in herself as being oppressed by her mother and bullied by her classmates all the time.

To express her regret feelings, Sue wants to help Carrie as much as she can. She also gets friendship value when amending her relationship with Carrie. When asking Tommy to accompany Carrie to the Spring Ball or the prom night, Sue says:

Will you? "Your class," she said, distraught. "Your class. The bell is going to ring." "Will you?" "Yes," she said with angry helplessness. "You knew I would." She swiped at her eyes with the back of her hand. "No," he said. "But now I do. I'll pick you up at seven-thirty." "Fine," she whispered. "Thank you." She looked as if she might swoon (King, 1974, p. 170).

Accordingly, Carrie feels happy that she can enjoy the night talking with the other classmates normally. When feeling good as a normal teenager girl, Carrie gets noticed and accepted by the outsider world. She also gets excited that she is the Queen, and Tommy, who is handsome and charming is the king of the prom night. Carrie's situation is described in this quotation:

"Look," he said as they got up. Two or three stagehands were sliding the King and Queen thrones from the wings while Mr. Lavoic, the head custodian, directed them with hand motions toward preset marks on the apron. She though they strewn with real flowers as well as huge crepe banners. "They're beautiful," she said. "You're beautiful," Tommy said, and she become quite sure that even be voted King and Queen of the Prom. She smiled at her own folly (King, 1974, p. 117).

Unfortunately, as soon as they are crowned, they are thrown by a bucket of pigs' blood. Carrie is soaked with pig blood in a revengeful attempt by some of her peers. This destroys Carrie's dream to be just a nightmare. She doesn't get sympathy from others around. Actually, the event of the prom night is planned by Billy and Chris. Chris plans to make Carrie suffer more than the previous tragic events in her life. She wants to exploit Carrie's weakness. Carrie's breaking point happens when she is thrown with pigs' blood and no one sympathizes with her but they laugh at her indifferently, and:

She rolled over on her back, eyes staring wildly at the stars from her painted face. She was forgetting (!! THE POWER!!) It was time to teach them a lesson. Time to show them a thing or two. She giggled hysterically. It was one of Momma's pet phrases (King, 1974, p. 143).

Carrie gets shocked and ashamed of the pigs' blood. In consequences, under the bullying pressure, Carrie's instant decision is to kill all people around as a revenge. This means that she uses her telekinetic power to achieve massive tragedy. In some confusing moments, she can kill her classmates who bully her, and she burns the school with her supernatural power. Moreover, Carrie becomes so angry that she cannot control her telekinetic power. Her bad effect results from the process of bullying during her lifetime. Carrie's furious reaction leads to a big tragedy. She believes that: "It was time to teach them a lesson. To show them a thing or two. She

giggled hysterically. It was one of Momma's petphrases" (King, 1974, p. 182). So, returning back to the prom and locking all the doors that lead out of the place, Carrie makes great fire that students die. Some students get electrocuted because of the water on the ground. Carrie continues her wild behaviour or rampage.

The demeaning words they use make her frantic and cannot recognize what is happening in her life. She explodes a lightbulb and recognizes that everything happens under her will. Chris and Billy try to escape the town and Carrie realizes that:

They got into his car, and he started it up. When he popped on the headlights, Chris began to scream, hands in fists up to her cheeks. Billy felt it at the same time: something in his mind, (carrie carrie carrie carrie) a presence. Carrie was standing in front of them, perhaps seventy feet away (King, 1974, p. 167).

So, the scared Chris and Billy wish to kill Carrie hitting her by the car, yet they are killed by Carrie's telekinetic power.

Generally speaking, Carrie's suffering begins from the first minute of her life and continues for the last one. Margaret White cannot get rid of Carrie, so, she imposes her fanatic religion upon her. She forbids her from any innocent conduct of childhood. She also orders her to pray for her sins, isolates her from others and imprisons her in the closet as a punishment for any bad conduct. Therefore, Carrie who is victimized by her mother at home as well as bullied by her classmates at school, feels spiritually lonely. As a result, she tries to revenge by using her supernatural power to destroy the town completely.

In *Carrie*, blood has a symbolic meaning. It refers to shame, humiliation, horror, identity, and power. When getting frantic, Carrie returns back home to confront her mother. Instead of taking care of her daughter, the mother kills her leaving her in the hands of Sue. She decides to kill her mother. Seeing Carrie is poured with blood, the mother always thinks that: "Blood was always the root of it, and only blood can expiate it" (King, 1974, p. 147). During the fight, the mother stabs Carrie with a knife in the shoulder, believing that: "... the sin had been expiated. By blood. But sin never dies" (King, 1974, p. 203). As a reaction, Carrie takes revenge on her mother killing her through her telekinetic power: "There was a bright flash overheard, followed by a flashgun like pop as a lightbulb sizzled and went out" (King, 1974, p. 18).

It is a reflection of Carrie's extreme social and physiological pressure. The abrupt flash represents the instability in her life as well as her growing power, illustrating how bullying leads to complicated social and emotional issues. So, bullying opens the door to complex social problems. Throughout the novel, Carrie always thinks of physical and physiological isolation. Anyhow, though, Carrie is powerful, she is also powerless.

Carrie is a victim and a perpetrator at the same time. She is distressed, yet she is also violent according to the punishment of beating and locking in the closet by her mother. Primarily, She is regarded as a victim, then as a monstrous as she avenges

herself against her tormentors. Shelly Stamp Lindsey (1991) argues that: "Not only is Carrie a female monster...monstrosity is explicitly associated with menstruation and female sexuality" (p. 36). Primarily, Carrie shares Margaret's belief in God, yet she eventually loses that faith especially when finding that Jesus cannot help her. So, she turns away from religious issues she has been previously taught, This is indicated in:

She held the knife up, and her eyes fastened hypnotically on the glittering hook of its blade. Carrie took a slow, blundering step forward. "I came to kill you, Momma. And you were waiting here to kill me. Momma, I... it's not right, Momma. It's not..." "Let's pray," Momma said softly. Her eyes fixed on Carrie and there was a crazed, awful compassion in them. The fire light was brighter now, dancing on the walls like dervishes. "For the last time, let us pray (King, 1974, p. 161).

Carrie is ultimately killed when her mother uses a knife to stab her in the shoulder. As a result, Carrie kills her mother using her supernatural power. This tragic end is the expected result of the repression and bullying. Carrie uses her mysterious power to escape maltreatment. Throughout her life, her suffering comes first from her mother's wrong upbringing to Carrie, Which causes a deficiency in her personality. That is why her colleagues bully her, exploiting her weakness.

Conclusion

Both at home and at school, Carrie suffers mistreatment, abuse, and bullying. On the one hand, her mother, Margaret, who is a Christian fundamentalist, imposes her fanatic religion upon her. She forbids Carrie from any innocent conduct of childhood, orders her to pray for her sins. She also isolates her from others and imprisons her in a closet as a punishment for any bad conduct. On the other hand, Carrie is bullied by her peers at school as she lacks the true education by her mother. She suffers a lot as she is always depressed and anxious.

Throughout the novel, Carrie confronts bullying and suffering which result in tragedy. Bullying and suffering are significant themes in the novel from the beginning to the end. King sheds light on the main character who is a disliked weird girl with telekinetic power. Carrie has the desire to be normal like the other peers or girls at school. Yet, she is always bullied at school by her classmates. Carrie is essentially mistreated by her mother at home. So, according to the suffering she experiences at her life time, she decides to avenge herself against all people who hurt her or mock at her.

Like past generation, Carrie's fanatic mother never gives her information about menstruation as she considers it as a sign of sin. So, Carrie reacts frightfully to this process that she thinks she is about to die. She has no idea about menstruation and she screams in terror and lashes out at others. In this sense, Carrie tries to take control over uncontrollable force.

The tragic end of the novel occurs not because of the telekinetic power Carrie possesses, but it occurs by the external factors like abuse or bullying which makes the victim suffer a lot. Carrie's suffering turns to anger that she decides to kill all people who harm her. So, she kills all of the harmful people except Sue who asks Carrie for forgiveness.

Generally speaking, monsters can be created by monsters. Victimiziers can also be created by victimizers. In this novel, it is shown that bullying and suffering shape Carrie's personality. Eventually, Carrie decides to revenge for what she gains. She realizes that her mother is as bad as her classmates. In consequences, She destroys the town completely by her supernatural power, killing her peers, her mother, and is killed by her mother. So, the circumstances cause Carrie's downfall as well as others' at the end of the story.

King presents *Carrie* as a warning to the American society that if any kind of bullying continues, the consequences are more harmful than the bullying itself. In this novel, King reflects the idea that all people who involve in the process of bullying can be effected by its tragic result. So, to avoid that, human beings should respect each other and do not start hostility.

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