

Devastating Impacts of Generation Gap in Michele Hutchison's *The Discomfort of Evening*: A Postmodernist View

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ABSTRACT

The current research article deals with devastating impacts in *The Discomfort of Evening*. The generation gap has been an issue that is rising in most parts of the world. It also highlights to investigate the generation gap by identifying the various factors which increase or decrease the gap. The problems are identified through postmodernist approach. The devastating impacts of generation gap in family structure in a society which is created by the writer as distorted relations with meaninglessness in modern society. The postmodern issues regarding parents and children relationship, restlessness, fear, and desire for death to show meaninglessness of life through lack of communication. The paper recommends further studies in this line where different generations would be engaged more to share knowledge and values and mitigate risks of further gap widening, while solving their socioeconomic problems.

Keywords: Devastating Impacts, Generation Gap, Relationship. Meaninglessness, Fear,

Introduction

Man is social animal and cannot live without people and society where he is bound with other people in different ties

who support and stand by him in the face of crisis. A man could not imagine of living by cutting himself from other people especially his family in the past but in

postmodern era he is living in an isolated state or is forced by circumstances to live isolated physically and emotionally. Communication is a two-way process through which we can share our ideas feelings, emotions and thoughts with other people to give vent to our repressed feelings to make ourselves in good relations with other people in society.

Effective communication is key to have healthy and fruitful relations but where there is communication or lack of it breaches and misunderstandings increase due to lack of mutual understanding of issues of each other. "I began to see language less as a bridge between people than as a threadbare rope tossed from one edge of a precipice to open hands at another" (Bartlett, 2015). Whether one speaks of written or spoken communication; verbal or nonverbal communication; face-to-face or digital communication, the process of communication involves humans making meaning together (Stewart, 2002, p. 17)

Where there is communication gap, the relations are distorted because the people have no time to communicate or are indulged in other activities, especially technological inventions that have made the world a global village but the members

of a family sitting in a room are still alienated. The other factor is that of generation gap due to which the young generation usually avoids the old. Both have different needs, targets, beliefs and problems as well on account of that they cannot understand each other.

Background Study

The researcher has chosen Michele Hutchison's novel *The Discomfort of Evening* (2020), International Booker prize winner, to analyze and universalize the destruction and distortion caused by communication gap in the lives of characters, awakening and cultivating individualism, subjectivity and introversion due to it among characters in postmodern era, of which they are fully acknowledged. Postmodernism has degraded the cultured, religious, normative and social beings to the level of beasts who have grown introvert and confined to themselves neglecting the people who are precious and sacrificing to them. It has acknowledged the people of this era meaninglessness of everything. To Mary Klages (2006), postmodernism is the "critique of grand narratives." Similarly, Jean-Francois Lyotard (1984) defines it in *The Postmodern Condition*, as an "incredulity toward metanarratives", which

is , somewhat ironically , a product of scientific progress”(xxiv).

The confrontation of traditional art and culture with that of modern society leads the dwellers of this era to be exposed to brutality, violence and aloofness. Some aspects are soothing and developing for the people but some bring devastation with innovation that has affected the postmodern society and familial relations to the extent that they are forced to shed these values to remain intact of the impacts which are inevitable. The researcher is awakening the impacts of communication gap with generational gap on family life.

To study the devastating impacts of loss of communication on family life in a rural Dutch society, disillusionment of characters in the targeted novel, meaninglessness and distorted relation of family in modern societies and affected indigenous people the researcher has relied on Jean Francois Lyotard's *The Postmodern Condition* (1979) in which he states that postmodernism is skeptic towards meta narratives, industrial society and reason. and Martin Esslin's *The Theatre of the Absurd* (1962) as a supporting idea in theoretical framework.

Research Methodology

The present study falls in the category of qualitative research because it follows an analytic and interpretive research pattern. A close textual analysis as well as analysis of the secondary sources on the work concerned will be carried out. Textual evidences will be quite important in this respect and the supporting ones will be highlighted. I intend to carry out close reading of the suggested text to sort out relevant passages for the analysis. Ultimately the project will be shaped as social and literary analysis. This research focuses on reading the selected text of Michele Hutchison. Lack of communication and strict religious rules imposed on the children and its effects on the children who become abhorrent and blasphemous towards religion, in postmodern age with meaninglessness and absurdity of human existence is used to form the basis of the study. The work under study is analyzed from the postmodern perspective of the suffering family that is confronting an everlasting agony, the parents due to death of their elder son and the children due to death of their brother, cold behavior of their parents with one another and their lack of attention towards their children who are suffering physically and psychologically, depicted

therein. Important texts, sourced from academic and public libraries, are consulted as the most significant sources of critical information.

Theoretical Framework

In order to carry out this research, the researcher has used Postmodernism that is “incredulity towards metanarratives”(Lyotard,1979), to address the problems the Man in this era is facing due to generation and communication gap, as theoretical framework. According to Albert Camus divorce between man and his life truly constitutes the feeling of absurdity(Nas,2012). According to Martin Esslin, Absurdism is “the inevitable devaluation of ideals,purity,and purpose”.MartinEsslin’s*The Theatre of the Absurd(1962)* as a supporting idea in theoretical framework besides Jean Francois Lyotard’s*The Postmodern Condition(1979)* in which he states that postmodernism is skeptic towards meta narratives, industrial society and reason. Regarding the targeted issue Lyotard argues that we do not establish stable combinations of language or communication and what we establish is not worthy to be communicated.

Literature Review

The purpose of literature review is to contextualize the research undertaken and

situate it with the existing research closely related to the problem under discussion that is to be explored. It also supports and validates the subject matter of the researcher’s argument on account of its correlation with it. Many researchers, writers and critics have written about the postmodern issues faced by the dwellers of this era, its impacts on family and individual life but do not give any suggestions to avoid any further devastation rather they are pessimists and nihilists who deny any order in the universe, focus on the meaninglessness of life and lost prestige of humanity that will worsen the situation.

Lyotard in his book, *The Postmodern Condition(1979)*, argues that role of religion and science that they both regularize their own rules by legitimating them on the stake of freedom of humanity that is diminishing.This research focuses on Marieke Lucas Rijnveld’s*The Discomfort of Evening* with the perspective of postmodernism where we see communication gap, meaninglessness and purposelessness of life of different character living under fear and consciousness of death as the postmodern world has gone through traumatic and brutal events of World War I and World War II. These made people to lose faith in

humanity and God, they became inquisitive, subjective, pessimistic and sceptic. They lost faith in values, strong relations and were fully acknowledged of the drastic impacts of technology with its benefits.

Every movement is not a spontaneous reaction towards a culture or event rather it takes decades and centuries for evolutions and revolutions to come. Modernism has its roots in the start of Renaissance in fifteen centuries with the inventions and discoveries in every field of life. Similarly, the writers made innovations in their style and subject matters to depict the true picture of their societies they were living in therefore we, nowadays, about the popular cultures and values of that time. The trends and problems of every age differed that can be seen in the literature of respective ages but the issue got severe and deeply rooted with the passage of time. Postmodernism is movement started in 1920's and broadly speaking, 'postmodernism' might be said to have been characterized by a deliberate shift away from tradition and shackles of practiced norms and values by the use of new and innovative forms of expression and innovation in every aspect of life. Thus, the styles in art, architecture, literature in modern era are very different

from the preceded ones. The term Modernism refers to the innovative and new social, economic and political development of industrial society while it sheds all the traditional norms and practices. All the dogmas existed at that time strong faith in Creator, nuclear family system were challenged by it to make them new and updated.

The rising issues are also depicted by media of any society due to its strong influence on minds and life of people. Ali Faizan, director of Pakistani movie *Ruposh*(2022), has tried to show the impacts of communication gap between parents and children due to unhealthy, mutual relation of parents where the protagonist, Salaar Shah is passing through a trauma of losing his love but his parents are totally unaware of his unrest situation. He says to his father, "Do you have any idea the pain your son is going through? ...I am broken. I am ruined."

AlparsalanNas(2012) in his article "Beckett and Ionesco: The Absurd and Resistance" argues that Beckett in his play, *Waiting for Godot*(1953), shows absurdity by both, silence and language and by showing his characters busy with worthless or menial tasks regarding hat and shoes similarly they have no worthy

topic to talk about so they are using abusive language or no language at all that shows how the Man has forgotten to talk about worthy communication due to dilemmas of this age.

KClareKemock (2007) analyzes in her thesis, *The Rhinoceros in 2006: A Dramaturgical Analysis of Eugene Ionesco's Rhinoceros*, the transformation of characters into rhinoceros, the locale is changed with typical standard of plot and alienation of human beings who through repetition of dialogues show meaninglessness and absurdity of human situation and existence. The issues, human beings are facing from the very start are being discussed by many writers, poets, critics and theorists who, where stated the dilemmas prevailing in contemporary societies also explicitly peep into their impacts on human life, their relations and families as whole. As the time is passing, the world is developing and progressing in every field like in arts, technology, architecture, literature and culture but at the same time there is continuous dehumanization of values and cultures due to devastating impacts of wars on postwar generation therefore a culture of negation and denial has developed towards everything that is affecting

individual freedom and mutual relations of human beings.

In the postmodern era, the generation lacks faith and is no more wanting solace and shelter under the red rock as T.S Eliot has said, but is growing ignorant towards religion as well as its preachers. Religion inculcates obedience towards nature, God and parents but fanaticism and extremism shows its opposite side of disobedience towards religion as well as to parents.

Peter N. Stearns (2005) in his book, *Childhood in World History*, has observed the impacts of religion imposition that religion provided new reasons for urgency of obedience to make the ongoing continuity. It regulated the physical discipline, as in Islam, but it could also thrust new psychological pressure of disobedience against parents translated into disobedience of God's will (p.41). "The great event of this period, the great trauma, is this decline of strong referential, these death pangs of the real and of the rational that open onto an age of simulation" (p.43).

Anthony Giddens while speaking about the bearings of industry and modernization on the family system advocates that the structure of the family, the forms of interrelationship within the family are

greatly determined by multiple criteria including class, race, ethnic identity, personal experience, and other factors. . Thus the search for freedom or perpetual poverty hence searches for escapism. One's personal experience during childhood necessarily influences to his future role in the family setup. A troubled childhood may stimulate a child to go for untroubled parenthood at a future date.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1962), the German social theorist, has expressed that the growing concept or perception of death of God is the problem of modern world. God's death left a huge void. As Morse Peckham put it: 'in Medieval European thought, the epistemological authority was the word of God as revealed through the teachings of the Roman Church' (1962: 8). Dr. Kriti Sigel (1955) in *Introduction to Modern Literary Theory* states that according to Jean Baudrillard, postmodernism marks a culture that is composed of highly disparate fragmented experiences and images that constantly bombard the individual in music, advertising, video, television and other forms of electronic media. These images are shallow, incoherent and devoid of originality because they are reproduced with ease and speed. It gave rise to new

notions, ways of thinking, the revolution in construction, art, and similarly in literature the writers and poets expressed the prevailing issues regarding distorted family relations, lack of faith, a tussle of the generations over religion, and other matters. If elders show reverence towards God, His creatures and to the teachings and values of religion the young modern generation does not show that reverence towards religion rather mocks the ways God is causing chaos in the world in His presence.

Woolf (1927), twentieth century renowned writer, who is sensitive towards the issues of pathetic and lonely souls living in this era, faced them in her real life and portrayed in her novels as well. She showed in her novels, *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925) and *To the Lighthouse* (1927) that how communication gap affects the lives of individuals, creates gaps between children and parents and how the individuals cannot communicate with their fellow beings when they have plenty of feelings to express as Clarissa arranges parties to bridge the people of society with each other but at the same time she is not in good relation with her own daughter and thinks "if it were now to die 'twere now to

be most happy”but her ultimate end is to commit suicide.

So the modern and postmodern writers have presented all such issues sometimes suggesting their solutions but sometimes they thus leave it to the readers to get the implied meaning such as T.S Eliot(1922) in *The Wasteland* philosophically comments on twentieth-century society, shows a deeply rooted lust for money, mechanical relation of human beings making them pessimistic. Instead, postmodernism is parasitical upon the very conceptual categories promulgated by modernism which it seeks to criticize.” (Clegg 2011, pp.7-8). In various sections of the poem, there is a pessimistic spirit but in the last section, he suggests a solution to make the world peaceful by improving oneself having compassion for others.

Emily Dickinson, nineteenth century American poetess, who was raised and educated at home, living in seclusion in a religious family, focused on the rationalization and deconstruction of religious beliefs in the nineteenth century. In previous studies Emily has been seen as devoted Christian as well as a blasphemous due to her inquisitive nature and expression in her poetry. She was

inquisitive and determined to scrutinize God and the assumptions surrounding religious beliefs of her time in search of a line of inquiry that includes doubt and uncertainty that made the people skeptical.

Eliot (1922) in his major work *The Wasteland* also focused on the religious and societal issues in detail of the postmodern age. He deals in detail with the unstable mental state of modern man and their inter-familial relations. In postmodernism many theorists and writers expressed and denied existence of God and abhorrent towards religion that is meant to suppress individual freedom for them.

The researcher is not the first person to approach this novel to investigate and explore the issues raised by the author but prior to other researchers worked on it to show the continuous prevailing grief and darkness due to the death of Jas’s, the narrator’s, brother Matthies who is dead in the start of the novel but remains alive in hearts of all the family members. Apart from the death of Matthies, the relation of their parents is also distorted and one hundred and eighty cows are also dead of the disease. This research will focus on the dilemma of, loss of communication among members of the family, generation gap, and divergence from the centralized family

system to an experimental place unknown but fascinating, futility of human activities and lives, uncomfortable contingency of material world.

The novel *The Discomfort of Evening* (2020) has been analyzed and argued by Nawaid Anjum (2020) who argues the novel has oppositions like darkness and light, past and present, death and life but it casts a discomfort, pessimism, bleakness, hollowness and constant fear and nostalgia about Matthies, eldest brother among four siblings of the narrator. There are other issues such as effects of imposition of religion, communication gap, and development of introvert behavior of characters in novel that are not analyzed by other researcher therefore but the researcher has opted to analyze and explain shocking impacts of communication gap, distorted religious practices due to its imposition and its aftermaths to show its universality that this is not the issue only of Dutch society but in this modern era every society is facing these issues either it is an Asian or an African society.

Postmodernism in Literature

The issues of postmodernism that are extreme versions of modernism such as emptiness in life leading to

meaninglessness, prevailing fear of death formerly that leads to desire for it, and introvert behavior of individuals leading to distorted family life is an alarming situation in this postmodern era. This is the period in the histories when the norms, set beliefs and values were being denied because of loss of faith in believe in Supreme Power and humanity as human being saw it being crushed during Great World Wars, everything and phenomena was questioned by the inquisitive minds which were trying to peep deeply in the true nature of the matters to check their validity and the way human beings are affected by them. Many religious parents desire to pass their own religious beliefs, practices, and commitments on to their children. Indeed, inter-generational transmission of religious belief is a well-established part of family studies (Bengtson et al. 2013; Spilman et al. 2013). Panda (2019) examines in his article that one investigates, examines, identifies, understands a concept, criticizes and evaluates and then without any outer interference chooses. The need for reasons and premises remain mandatory during modern era. (Johnson, 2007).

The post-modern man is stuck hoping for nothing, having no solutions for problems

looking to the initiated devastation of past and enjoying it, finding no solace in religion but he is so uncertain about his problems that he is not finding any comfort thus the agony, instability, and discomfort of mind leads him to attempt suicide as a proper way to escape. Modernism and modernity, roots of Postmodernism, are perceived in different ways so the perspectives of people regarding life, religion, ethics and life style are different. In this age all the people are fighting with various fears they are confronted with physically and psychologically.

According to Kant, man, in his immaturity, has been bound by the external authorities of Bible, the church, and the state, but man must no longer be shackled to worn-out creeds and customs; these barriers must come down for the sake of progress. In modernism, there is clash of culture, values and beliefs therefore many writers and poets have tried to state all these issues in their notable works, some suggest the solutions too but some leave it up to the readers to comprehend the suggested purpose of the text themselves. The post-modern condition, according to American critics, designates the transformation in culture, art and literature at the end of nineteenth century and altered the rules of

different fields related to art and real life. Postmodernism is an intellectual stance or mode of discourse with a skeptic attitude towards grand narratives and stability of meaning, stating the temporariness of everything in this universe. Its origin is the result of intellectual assumptions and values of modernism or the worst form of it bore postmodernism that flourished after 1940s giving emergence to postmodernism having similarities and differences. This movement affected the culture too but also sought an alignment with experiences of wars on the world and stressed subjectivity, meaninglessness of life and communication gap leading to devastation of relations.

Postmodernist View of *The Discomfort of Evening*

The debut novel of Marieke Lucas Rijneveld, translated by Michele Hutchison, highlights post-modern issues of communication gap leading to deformed development of kids in a family, constant prevailing fear of death, and harsh rules implied by the elders in a family and God through the narrator, a girl of ten or twelve years, Jaz who is reflecting the dilemma of lack of communication between parents and their children, their mourning for dead kid, Matthies neglecting their living

children who want to escape from home or to die due to hostile behavior of parents towards them. The problem is just not between parents and kids but between the parents themselves that is disturbing for Jaz who discusses with her siblings too that how their parents can return to their life as it was before death of Mathies.

All these issues that the characters of the novel are confronting are also faced by children and parents of every culture and society and the writer Michele Hutchison has shown such gaps with their effects on the lives of people successfully in her novel *The Discomfort of Evening* (2020). The researcher explored the effects of imposing religion on children thus evoking distrust for God and His creatures and lack of communication among members of family, prevailing fear of death on them with guilt on narrator, Jaz leading to restlessness and discomfort in their lives.

The researcher foregrounded the issues related to growing children brought up in stressed environment and trying to give a voice to the children who are not able to communicate with their own parents and share their problems with themselves in a low or high voice or with other kids with whom they find solace, are living in a constant stress due to someone's death or

ignorance of their parents from them in the light of modern theory. She shows through her work that how the children suffering physical and mental agony because of the loss of dear ones, lack of communication with their parents, hypocrisy of elders who force them to become practicing person of religion when their own deeds are not compatible with the religion thus evoking internal grievance for religion and elders. The aim and focus of the study is on all facets of the personality of the narrator, Jaz, who is undergoing a continuous agony, discomfort, restlessness, stress and her care for her family especially for her parents.

The study traces the ways Jas, the main character and narrator, a familiar companion understands her skewed attempts at finding comfort in the bizarre, the need for ritual and odd behaviors to prevent the darkness of misplaced guilt, and unspoken grief from consuming the soul entirely. As an experience of childhood neglect/abuse, Jas's attempted to make her family well through magical thinking are familiar and not as distressing to read as they would be for someone who does not know the sad, lonely and fearful psychological landscape of an imploding family. The confused, dissociative narrative, is beautifully written, and paints

a vivid portrait of the harsh realities of a Dutch farming village.

Devastating Impacts in *The Discomfort of Evening*

In this chapter the researcher will analyze the novel *The Discomfort of Evening* through thematic, analytic and descriptive approach by dividing the analysis in sections to incorporate the objectives and answer the questions of this research. The issues of this age has pushed the postmodern families into destructive circumstances. The novel, *The Discomfort of Evening* (2020), covers the circumstances of a Dutch family living at farm where we see a happy phase and later a secluded, melancholic and dispersed family ignorant of issues of other members of family everyone is confined to his/her own shell.

The narrator, Jaz a girl of twelve years, is narrating the story and all we come to know is through her only. From the start we see a pessimistic tone and symbols such as “pale cheeks” the preparations for Christmas are going on, the family is enjoying dinner, kids are talking to each other, Jaz says to her brother Matthies, “If you put goldfish in dark room for too long they go really pale” (Hutchison, p.2) is

suggesting something bad is about to happen and that is comes as a great stroke to family when Matthies dies while skating by drowning in a lake as vet informs, “Your brother is dead.” This postmodern writing shows how death has overwhelming influence on lives of people of post war period where they live for mourning for dead than for living representing an absurd situation as Albert Camus states, divorce between man and his life truly constitutes the feeling of absurdity (Nas, 2012). As the narrator says, “the only place I want to go to is myself” (Hutchison, 158).

Another cause of communication gap is the inner guilt of the narrator who thinks that her brother died because she prayed, “I asked God if He lease couldn’t take my brother Matthies instead of my rabbit, Amen” (Hutchison, 10) and he died the same evening. She says in the novel that she wants to replay the scene again and again in her memory when her brother said goodbye to her. Heidegger says that absurdity arises from guilt as is quoted by Louis R. Rossi, while analyzing *The Plague* (1947) by Albert Camus, “The germs of the plague are within him and take possession of him in his weakness” while analyzing the character of Tarrou. Similarly, the protagonist as well as

narrator is suffering from the guilt and tries to feel what her brother felt the moment he drowned in icy lake while skating therefore she ones pushed her own sister into water.

The generation gap between parents and children is mainly due to different ideas, preferences and beliefs the targeted novel there is clear difference of attitude of parents and children towards religion former show respect and are punctual in going to the church and ray every Sunday but the children discuss irreverent remarks and ideas with each other but no with their parents. According to Lyotard, many such decisions are indeed made, but they usually consist of an assertion of non-rhetorical power by those in a dominant position materially in society.

Jas and Obbe, siblings, while sitting see naked angels to be hanged on Christmas tree, they both laugh and comment that if their father would have seen them he would wrap them in silver paper but the narrator cuts wings of an angel to see “If God existed and that He was there for us during daytime too”. when Jas asks about angels that if they catch cold? Obbe replies, “They’re coldblooded, just like snakes and water flees”. (Hutchison, 15), Jas has toads in her hands and says to Hannah,

“Don’t say anything to Mum and Dad about the other side, they’ll get even more upset” (Hutchison, 37). Foot and Mouth disease hits the animals at farm and many cows die, the weather is stormy too, the narrator says, “God can never get it right. If a swan is rescued somewhere in the village, in a different place a parishioner dies” (Hutchison, 107) that shows shaken belief and pessimistic attitude of postmodern generation.

Communication gap affects the mutual relations of people where ever it is either it is in Business, teaching or family. In the present study the researcher is prone to bring forth impacts of communication gap in a family where the parents and children are not having an effective communication. The children are ought to follow some moral rules and speak nothing that can offend their parents especially their mother or God so they the siblings discuss everything with each other. It is clear from analysis that they are growing to be abhorrent towards religion and do not follow the manners of praying or of speaking about sacred figures. The dwellers of post-modern era, after the destruction and humiliation of humanity in world wars have lost belief in God as it is stated, “I often thought to myself: that poor man has been dead a long time, they

must have forgotten by now” (Hutchison,pg.12)where “poor man” is referred to Jesus Christ because the family is celebrating Christmas as Albert Camus says, “the absurd is a direct consequence of the absence of God”.

Absence of God for postwar generation is due to the devastation they saw in World war I and II, they usually argue that if there were God in Heaven then He would have saved humanity. As it is stated in the novel, “Obbe had once joked that Jesus’ body was made of cheese, too, and that was why we were only allowed two slices on our bread each day, otherwise we’d run out of Him too quickly”(Hutchison,p.12).Similarly, when Obbe swears, Jas asks him not swear or would he want his parents to die because of it.

Camus tells us that "A deep thought is in a continual process of becoming, it attaches itself to the experience of a lifetime and is shaped by it"(Sisyphus,1942). In the start of novel it is shown that the narrator is suffering from guilt,it is a continuous and unending pain that she is bearing throughout the novel as she says that the headmaster won't let her leave early.He says, “There’s usually a deeper underlying issue with children who are off school sick

for a long time” (Hutchison,96).The writer says that the absent minded thing that he observed on faces of parents and children was death that took a wrong person.In state of restlessness caused due to disease and ineffective communication among characters we see a change in attitudes and behaviors of all the characters when Dad asks his children to disinfect all the tools in the farm Obbe says, “but we’ve been fenced off and tied up since our births. We can’t be anything else”.Then he comes closer to Jas,presSES his index finger to his temple making a shooting sound, Jas cries, “You’re crazy”, “We’re all going to crazy-you too”he says.

This novel is claimed to an autobiographical, the portrait of narrator appears to be recollection of writer’s self, where there is prevailing fear and longing for death. The novel starts and ends with death while throughout the novel the dead person is alive in memory of other characters especially of narrator. The mother said, “I want to die” several times while Obbe comments on Jas’ argument about parents, “they are already dead”. Camus (1942) say that a person dies when he sees that the life is not worth living and if a person kills himself he confesses the life is too much to understand as the narrator at the end of the novel says, “I’m

coming dear Matthies". "A loud bang follows, the freezer light flips off. Everything is pitch dark and silent now. Icily silent" (Hutchison,200). So the narrator commits suicide lying in freezer as her brother died in an icy lake and gets rid of all the sufferings and guilt.

Conclusion

This study has explored the devastating impacts which are highlighted through generation gap in the postmodern society where the parents and children are unaware of the problems of each other. They are unable to express their grief and sorrow that shows the pitiable and devastated family life of all characters. It is necessary to establish a well family structure to avoid those elements which has been identified in the novel. One generation needs to understand the needs and approach of other generation through proper communication. It needs to be tolerant towards their ideas, feelings and regard their individuality. All the activities of characters in the novel are based on the devastating impacts of generation gap faced by children, parents inside the family as well as members of the society. The writer, Michele Hutchison, has shown such gaps and its effects on the lives of people successfully in her novel *The Discomfort*

of Evening (2020). The researcher explored the effects of imposing religious ethics on children thus evoking distrust for God and His creatures. The lack of communication among members of family, prevailing fear of death on them with guilt on narrator, Jaz leading to restlessness and discomfort in their lives which create desire for death.

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