

## The Unconditional Love And Caregiving In Elena Ferrante's The Story Of The Lost Child

Abishamol K.S<sup>1</sup>, Dr. D.L. Jaisy<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

*Love is an emotive emotion that binds human relationships together. It includes, having a mental and emotional attachment to other people. The strongest interpersonal affection is a result of love. Religious books guide people towards love. It is an essential aspect of living. Deep attachment facilitates strong communication. The symbol of positive emotion is love. Love can sometimes bring happiness into a person's life, but at the same time it has some opposite effects too. Love can be felt as either good or bad. Attachment theory presented very clearly in the novels of Elena Ferrante. In Elena Ferrante's The Story of the Lost Child conveys the idea of love. The relationship between the characters is purely on love. The present study attempts the characters attachment with their care givers as well as how characters can survive because of love.*

**Keywords:** *love, emotion, characters, communication, affection*

### Introduction

Elena Ferrante's The Story of the Lost Daughter is the sufferings faced by a mother till the old age. Elena Ferrante is one of the most popular writers in Italian literature. She is a pseudonymous writer. Early childhood require care from various sources like parents, grandparents and other adults. Children can develop their mental and emotional development through this bond. Whereas a child's overall growth is parents' ultimate goal. Children can live happy and fulfilled lives because carers spend more time with them. Parents sacrifice their life to their beloved children. The primary carers look after their offspring. In this regard, the renowned psychoanalyst John Bowlby developed attachment theory is specially noticeable. The pure love is a precious gift from God. Elena Ferrante reveals the unconditional love and care giving through her novel The Story of the Lost Child.

A precise image of an affectionate relationship with others provide an attachment to the society. This idea has given an accommodating and perspective concept. Realisation of a child's requirements is important as far as parents are concerned. Children are not under the carer's authority. Children require love and attention from others. Kids desire to use tender hands to accomplish their aims. In a few cases, carers are viewed as role models by them, but in most cases, parents have a great role in the overall development of children. Parents provide a platform for their kids to share their feelings. Analysing and being overly preoccupied at work

---

<sup>1</sup>Reg. No. 22213234012004 (Full Time) Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of English, St. Jude's College, Thoothoor, (Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Abishekapatti, Tamil Nadu - 627012)

<sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of English, St. Jude's College, Thoothoor (Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Abishekapatti, Tamil Nadu - 627012)

have a detrimental effect on the nutrition of the kids. A more self-serving explanation of fondness is caregiving. An emotional connection is crucial to the caregiving process. They gain the confidence to accomplish their greatest ambitions because of their bond to their parents. Happiness in life is the result. Caregiving is portrayed on one side and parental love is depicted on the other. Abbi Glines states that, "unconditional love is hard to compete with" (23).

The novel gives us a clear picture of an affectional bond with others. Above all, the concept of this theory is sensitive and responsive. Genuine parenting to children's needs. Parents do not dominate their children. Children consider parents to be their role models and they are the way to achieve children's goals. Parents allow expressing children's emotions with them. The over-thinking and busy life negatively affect the nourishment of the children. It is caregiving or self-interest. Especially in the caregiving process, emotional experience is very important. Their bond to their parents creates confidence among children. The author gives more important to parental love and love through friendship. Many literary genres use attachment theory in writing. It focuses on love as the symbol of a relationship. Particularly in Italy, parent child relationships are growing day by day. Different from other psychological theories attachment theory have a great place in Literature. The family attachment parent-child relation is depicted with the use of love and care. The completeness of attachment theory with the definition of Jeremy Holmes in his book *John Bowlby and Attachment Theory* points out,

To feel attached is to feel safe and secure. By contrast and in secularly attached the person may have a mixture of feelings towards there attachment figure. Indians love and dependency fear of rejection irritability and vigilance. One may be a rice that there lack of security has around at simultaneous wish to be closed and angry determination to punish their attachment figure for the minutest sign of abandonment. It is though the insecularly attached the person is saying to themselves. Cling as hard as you can to people they are likely to abandon you. Hang on them and hurt them if they show signs of going away, then they may be less likely to do so(78).

Italian literature highlights the relationship with one another. Parent-child love mother daughter relationship and friendship are expressed through the novels of Elena Ferrante. The early beginning of Italian literature expresses parental love in many writings. Parental love is expressed in various novels. Through characters, the writer wants to prove the parental love towards children. This paper tries to analyse the value of caregivers and the survival of children. The influence of caregivers in Elena Ferrante's *The Story of the Lost Child* analyse various perspectives like feminism and psycho-analytical forms. This study is something different from other studies. In this situation, love is expressed through a psychological perspective.

In one of her interviews, she fewly expressed her born place was Naples. New York Times magazine highly appreciated her as 'Ferrante one of the 100 most influential people 'in 2016. Her Neapolitan writings were nominated for the Strega Prize as well as the International Booker Prize. Darrin Franich said about her Neapolitan writing as 'The Neapolitan novels are the series of the decade because they are so clearly of this decade: conflicted, revisionist, desperate, hopeful, revolutionary, euphorically feminine even in the face of assaultive male corrosion 'When Ferrante published her first novel, she completely hides her personality to others. She does not like to reveal her original name to her International readers. *The Story of the Lost Child* got the Independent Publisher Book Award- Gold Medal and was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize. Yet love is one of the basic themes in all of her writings. The Guardian proclaimed 'Nothing quite like it has ever been published.'

At the opening of the novel, Elena wants to return to Naples and she does not have to close with the Lila. Because Lila strongly opposed the affair of Elena with Nino. So the two of them decided to leave each other. Lila criticized Elena's parenting. Elena was not satisfied in her marriage life and she decided to divorce her husband and lead a happy life with Nino.

But Lila, her close friend unliked this affair. They share everything. Love is one factor that sometimes affects negatively or positively in our lives. Their friendship is strong but Lila all the time criticizes the negatives done by Elena. She returns to Florence and she fight with her husband Pietro, about her children and her spoiled married life. Elena decided to leave her girl children. But children are very sad because they are happy to live with their mother. The children need parental care and love from their parents. At first, Elena thinks her sister-in-law is very careful over her but finally, her sister-in-law puts Elena in a difficult situation. Other than genuine parental care, the children can survive many difficult situations. The children get the parental care from their aunt. Ferrante fairly describes as,

The girls had no duties : they wanted through the rooms until late at night, curious. They listen to speeches and jargons of every type, they were in the paint when people made music, when the sang and danced. Their aunt went out in the morning to the university and returned in the late afternoon. She was never and anxious, she made them laugh, she chased them around the apartment, played hide and seek or blind man's buff (102)

When the time gave birth, the mother was very happy to get the child into the world and felt a lot of desire for her child. In this novel, the parents have three children. No doubt birth giving is enjoyed by the parents. Unconditional love is considered as romantic commitment.

of the first two experiences I didn't have a particularly painful memory, but this one was absolutely the easiest, so much so that I considered it a happy liberation. The gynecologist the praised myself control, she was happy that I hadn't caused her any problems. If they were all like you she said. You are made for bringing children into the world (194).

Delivering a child is painful but love and happiness for the child is unconditional. Parents face difficulties but they live for their children. The parents beautifully describe the newborn baby girl. 'I welcomed the new arrival lovingly, she was a girl of seven pounds, purple, bald '(194). The mother was happy and shared her happiness with her husband. The three children loved their parents and cared for them. Father is very much cared for his three girl children.

Finally this article is analysed as love is an inevitable part of an individual's life. Through parental care and love, children can survive the bad situation and they can face the barriers. Sometimes the parental love is getting from parents and others it can get through friends, elders, relatives, neighbours etc. Many difficult situations can survive through the love of others. The Holy Bible says Love is patient and kind. Love doesn't envy or boast. Without pure love, nothing can survive the worst situations. Many philosophers support the value of love. Love is defined from psychological and philosophical perspectives. Many religious books are evidence of love and good relationships.

## Works Cited

1. Ferrante, Elena. *The Story of the Lost Child*: Europa Editions. 2014
2. Holmes, Jeremy. *John Bowlby and Attachment Theory*: Taylor & Francis. 1958
3. Edyvane, Derek. "Against Unconditional Love". *Journal of Applied Philosophy*,
4. vol. 20.No. 1,2003,pp. 59-75
5. Adams, Merrihew, Robert."Pure Love". *The Journal of Religious Ethics*, vol. 8,
6. No. 1,1980,pp. 83-99
7. Glines, Abbi. *Because of Love*: Simon & Schuster. 2012