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Psychosocial Development of Eveline in James Joyce's short story "Eveline": *An Eriksonian Perspective*



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Abstract

The paper aims to study James Joyce's short story "Eveline" from of Erick Erickson's theory of Personality. This study is qualitative in nature and limited only to the character of Eveline in the short story. It was found, In the story, the main protagonist Eveline, a nineteen years old girl passes through hard and tough times as she is living in the conservative society. Eveline seeks refuge in her past life and she is stuck between loyalty to her family and free life offered by Frank. Eveline's character that share fervent likeness with Erickson's hypothesis of character Sixth stage of Intimacy vs. Isolation. In this stage of life, an individual develops social, emotional attachment with other people. Eveline also develops this relationship but she cannot retain the relationship as she clings to her traditional values and customs of conservative family. The study concludes that a child like Eveline who has an awful childhood and mental issues will not move to next stage of life with confidence. Likewise, this study exposes the evil practices of patriarchal society in which women are forced to obey their parents in matrimonial affairs. The negligence of female children by their parents tempt them to look for love and compassion outside their home and thus they fall prey to sexual predators lurking outside home.

Keywords: Eveline, Personality traits, Theory of Personality, patriarchal society.

1. Introduction

The study examines the psychoanalysis of the character Eveline in James Joyce's short story "Eveline" from the perspective of Erikson's Psychosocial theory of personality. Psychoanalytic criticism, focuses on an individual's existence of unconscious, thoughts, dreams, memories and feelings. Studying Erikson's stages provides a framework for understanding and addressing the different stages of recovery from mental illness. This theory describes personality development, including social skills and attitudes, from childhood to maturity. This theory was presented by Erik Homburger Erikson, a Neo-Freudian psychologist and specialist in child psychoanalysis, in the 1950s. Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory of development inspired Erikson. However, Jung's theory emphasizes concepts such as the collective unconscious, archetypes, individuation and psychological types whereas Eric Erikson's theory of Psychosocial development is different because it explains personality development through social and psychological crises occurring throughout

the lifespan of an individual (Asvaroğlu & Olkanlı, 2021).

Erikson uses the term “Psychosocial,” a coined expression formed by combining two words: “psychological” referring to the mind and “social” to relationships. Erikson's psychosocial theory of personality consists of eight successive stages started from early infancy to late adulthood. This theory offers a link between individual's growth and social expectations. This study interprets James Joyce's short story “Eveline” from Erickson's Psychosocial theory of personality (1968). The protagonist Eveline, suffers from anxiety, fear and pain. She passes tough times as her society is conservative and there is no room for women's freedom. The story “Eveline” depicts the miserable condition of women in males dominated society in the early 20th century. Until the last few years of 1990s, women were considered second- class citizens in Ireland and they were discriminated against every walk of life (Horgan, 2001). Likewise, women had limited chances in educational and professional institutions. Male members of the family had control over their decisions, and employers generally would hire women for manual work and would pay less than their male members.

Erickson's Psychosocial theory of personality consists of eight successive stages started from early infancy to late adulthood. Erickson's psychosocial development theory offers a link between individual's growth and social expectations. This study interprets James Joyce's short story “Eveline” from Erickson's Psychosocial theory of personality, in which the main character, Eveline, suffers from anxiety, fear and pain. She passes hard and tough times as her society is conservative and there is no room for women's liberty.

In “Eveline”, James Joyce depicts how women struggle to find their identity in the male dominated societies through the character Eveline who suffers from mental illness and she tries to create her own identity but badly fail in the end of the story. the protagonist of the story fails to break the social and religious norms of her Irish society in which women were thought to be submissive and obedient to male members of the society. The study focuses on how psychoanalytical study of a literary work is essential in the understanding of psychological behavior of a character and how Erikson's Theory of personality can offer a possible explanation for the actions of Eveline in the selected short story. Erickson's theory of personality has 8 stages but the researchers focus only on intimacy vs. isolation to pursue the current study.

2. Literature Review

Previous studies on James Joyce's short story "Eveline" has examined the protagonist Eveline's psychological paralysis from psychoanalytic, feminist, postcolonial, and historical perspectives. Though these studies provide substantial insight into Eveline's indecision, fear, guilt, moral and familial obligations, and inability to leave Dublin, Ireland, only limited studies have applied Erik Erikson's psychosocial theory systematically.

2.1 Literature Review on "Eveline"

Below is a brief description of different researchers' point of views about the story Eveline.

O'Brien (2004) studies gender identity and postcolonial subjectivity in James Joyce's short story "Eveline." One of the obstacles for Eveline's identity development is her memories of her dying mother, Ms. Hill. Her mother has spent her life as an obedient wife to her husband and as a mother. Even though Eveline wants to get free from these obligations, "her mother has circumscribed Eveline's own life choices by getting her into the traditional role of a career by asking her to 'keep the house together after her death. Therefore, Eveline is locked within structures that expect women to remain silent and obedient. O'Brien's research study complements Erikson by showing that psychosocial identity develops within unequal social relations and it should not be interpreted as a purely internal psychological element. This pattern is also reflected in Surcan (2019)'s work. He analyzes that throughout the story, Eveline doesn't speak of her own identity. She describes herself in reference to her father, brother, and later to her companion Frank. They have strong influence on Eveline's life.

Barberan Reinares (2013) mentions that James Joyce's "Eveline" has been interpreted as the story in *Dubliners* that best explains Ireland's "paralysis," The protagonist, Eveline, is haunted by an unbreakable promise to her dying mother, an abusive alcoholic father, an insecure future, and the children who have been given in her charge. In such a circumstance, Frank appears with a promise to marry her and offers a new life in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In spite of the dismal situation, she refuses to go with Frank to start a new life.

Likewise, Uphaus (2014) explores Eveline's suspension between Dublin and the outer world in relation to Ireland's divided position within the British Empire, arguing that Eveline's paralysis echoes the conflicting imperial and national

affiliations experienced in modern Ireland in the 20th century. The girl's personal uncertainty thus reflects a wider cultural uncertainty concerning belonging, departure, dependence, displacement and personal identity. This interpretation of Uphaus's research supports Erikson's concept that identity is produced through interaction between personal development and shared culture and traditions.

Torusdağ (2018) gives enough space to the character of Eveline, who has a love affair with a sailor, Frank, who wants to take her away and to marry her. Though Eveline desires to escape a hard and monotonous life and is about to leave her home and begin a new life with Frank in Buenos Ayres but, she cannot forget her promise to her mother to keep the family intact. When she meets Frank at the station to go away with him by boat, suddenly, she decides to stay in Ireland. Her rejection of Frank is not only a rejection of love, but also a rejection of a new life in a distant country. She desires to run away and to leave her past behind, but she is too connected to her past.

Ivanović (2021) further examines the long lasting effects of unresolved trauma on the protagonist Eveline's behaviour in James Joyce's short story "Eveline". He argues that Eveline's childhood experiences produce psychological pains and wounds that remain active in adulthood and that her refusal to leave Dublin may function as a mechanism of self-preservation. She avoids the unfamiliar and unprecedented future because it could recreate the helplessness related with her earlier trauma. His study gives a light touch to social psychological development but still it fails to link his study to an Eriksonian perspective.

Pasquali (2022) further explains that James Joyce's short story, "Eveline," depicts the transition between childhood and adolescence. James Joyce's *Eveline*, as the narrative continually moves between Eveline's present reality, her memories of the past and her imagined future. Interestingly, a wish world emerges through Eveline's desire to escape her restrictive domestic life. She imagines a new life with Frank in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she believes she will be loved and able to begin her life according to her choice. However, this imagined future contrasts sharply with her present circumstance, which is dominated by domestic responsibilities, family obligations, and fear. The story also contains speculative extensions, as both Eveline and the reader imagine what might happen if she leaves home for Argentina. She considers the possibility of marriage, a happy life with Frank, and freedom from her domestic responsibilities, while the reader similarly constructs possible futures for her too.

Konain (2025) analyzes James Joyce's "Eveline" as a story about a young woman, Eveline, who wishes to change her life but cannot make a decision. Eveline's inability to make a decision is called "psychological paralysis." She herself feels badly trapped by her duties toward her family, especially her father and younger siblings. Konain mentions that Eveline's condition reflects the influence of the broader social and cultural system of her society. This reveals that Eveline's fear, silence, and inability to act are not caused only by her personal feelings but are also shaped by the society around her. From an early age, girls in Irish society are taught to remain patient, tolerate suffering, and obey family orders without questioning their authority. James Joyce challenges romanticized notions of escape and empowerment often found in traditional narratives. In the story, Eveline's desire to leave her house. However, her inner conflict reveals the tension between personal desires and inherited duty, forcing her to sacrifice her dreams and wishes. Konain (2025) concludes that, in this story, James Joyce illuminates how the private lives of women are shaped by public forces beyond their control and power.

El Hajj (2026) explores that the protagonist Eveline's final immobility is a symptom of deep psychic conflict rather than a simple failure of courage. The researcher connects Eveline's paralysis with unconscious loyalty to the family, identification with her mother's suffering, and internalized patriarchal confinement. Frank initially represents escape, but Eveline lacks a stable psychological and symbolic foundation upon which to construct a new identity outside Dublin. The researcher's argument shows that unresolved identity and weak autonomy prevent the successful establishment of intimacy as reflected in Eveline's character.

2.2 Erik Erikson's Psychosocial Theory

Erikson (1963), in *Childhood and Society*, presents personality development as a lifelong process which consists of eight (08) psychosocial stages. Each stage develops through interaction between the individual and his or her social environment. This theory is particularly applicable for examining Eveline because her present inability to establish an independent woman's life may be connected with unresolved earlier conflicts involving trust, autonomy, initiative and identity. Her fear of her father, her mother's will, restricted childhood and lack of emotional security may have weakened the psychological foundations necessary for free decision-making.

Batra (2013) states that Erikson proposed a unique theoretical framework to establish connections between the various stages of human development, the growth

of maturity in an adult individual, and the relationship between the individual and society. He built his theory based on Sigmund Freud's theory of psychosexual development and his own work with children and their families. For Erikson, a person's identity and personality are not shaped only by personal experiences or individual choices but social conditions, power structures, laws, social policies, and systems of authority also influence how an individual think, behaves, and understands himself or herself. The researcher reveals that Erikson's theory of psychosocial development can be applied not only for understanding a character's psychological growth but also for understanding the development of young people. He gives several examples. For instance, Teachers and parents can use the theory to understand the emotional and social needs of the students. Likewise, curriculum developers can design learning activities that support the psychological development of the students. Whereas school counselors can help students deal with developmental challenges and other issues. Policymakers can also apply the theory when they develop educational policies regarding students. The researcher concludes that Erikson firmly believes that every child goes through a series of developmental stages from birth to old age. An individual's personality and identity are therefore shaped through the continuous tension between what he wants, what he feels, and what society expects from him.

In his extended work, *Identity: Youth and Crisis* Erikson (1968) explores that identity is shaped not only within the individual but also within the surrounding culture and social setup. His argument is relevant to the protagonist Eveline as her identity has been formed through social expectations concerning daughterhood, domestic responsibility, social obligation, eligion, obedience, and self-sacrifice. She has difficulty distinguishing her personal desires from the duties imposed on her by her family. Her conflict with Frank may therefore be interpreted as the continuation of an unresolved struggle between identity and role confusion.

These reviewed scholarship shows that Eveline's final paralysis cannot be attributed to a single cause. Psychological critics have often employed Freudian, Lacanian and trauma-based theories whereas gender and postcolonial critics focus on the social forces restricting Eveline's choices. A limited amount of research has systematically examined the protagonist Eveline's personality through the interconnected stages of Erikson's psychosocial theory. The most defensible research gap is, therefore, not that no Eriksonian research exists, but that there is deficient peer-reviewed research applying several Eriksonian crises together. The current study

can contribute by analyzing how mistrust, shame and doubt, guilt, confusion, and isolation accumulate throughout protagonist Eveline's development.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Nature of the Research

The present research is qualitative in nature. The researcher uses original text of short story "Eveline" for analysis. Apart from the original text of the story as primary source, the researcher has also collected information from libraries and internet as secondary sources. The study also uses Catherine Belsey's textual analysis to discuss the short story "Eveline". The method is to closely and attentively read the text to outline major themes, patterns and psychological events. Textual analysis, as argued by Belsey, looks at how texts construct meanings and reproduce or challenge dominant cultural assumptions (Belsey, 2013).

3.2 Theoretical Framework

This study applies Erikson's Theory of Personality (1968) to analyze Joyce's "Eveline". Erikson's theory of personality centers on the idea that psychic health significantly affects the social, financial, and practical aspects of human life. Joyce's short story "Eveline" practically illustrates this phenomenon via the female character Eveline.

Erikson's theory of personality includes eight stages which are also known as the eight stages of Man. These include: Trust vs. Mistrust; Autonomy vs. Shame; Initiative vs. Guilt; Industry vs. Inferiority; Identity vs. Role confusion; Intimacy vs. Isolation; Generativity vs. Stagnation and Integrity vs. Despair. According to Erikson, an individual experiences these eight stages of development over his or her life span, from infancy to late adulthood. This study works on the sixth stage – Intimacy vs. Isolation as the writer narrates Eveline's adulthood with a flashback to early childhood.

Intimacy vs. Isolation: People in early adulthood (from eighteen to thirty years) are concerned with intimacy vs. isolation. At this stage, people seek to establish close and meaningful with others. After having developed a stable sense of identity during Stage 5 they are prepared to share themselves emotionally with other peers. A person forms healthy and lasting relationship if the crisis is resolved successfully. Otherwise, an individual may experience isolation, loneliness and fear of commitment in their lives, if the crisis is not successfully resolved. The study focuses on this stage (intimacy vs. isolation) and tries to find out the problems that blockade her to

decide and reason behind her indecisiveness.

4.1 Analysis and Findings

In this section, James Joyce's short story "Eveline" is analyzed from the perspective of Erikson's psychosocial theory of personality, in which stage 6 (intimacy vs. isolation) has been discussed in detail. The description of the character is based on introspection rather than on descriptive details. James Joyce no longer explains things but he plunges into his characters and reveals their feelings and thoughts as he feels and thinks (Daneshzadeh, 2015). In the entire story, there is no physical description of Eveline. Readers only come across her feelings and her memories of the past, signifying that the narrator wants to concentrate on the psychological situation of the character

According to Erickson (1968), during the development and growth of a person he or she passes through some consistent stages from his/her childhood to adulthood which he named as epigenetic principle. The epigenetic principle focuses on the assumption that in each stage a person faces conflicts and he/she faces new challenges. There are two conflicting forces which are responsible for causing a crisis which means that every stage of human development presents a person with two opposing psychological tendencies and forces. These opposing tendencies and forces create a developmental challenge a psychosocial crisis in Eriksonian terms. It signifies a critical turning point in development where an individual negotiates between two contrasting options (Erikson, 1968). Erickson stages of psychosocial development are bipolar in nature, signifying that the effect is either negative or positive.

Intimacy vs. Isolation is the sixth (6th) stage of Psychosocial development that starts from early adulthood (19) years to late adulthood (40) years. It is the phase of early adolescence where individuals in general develop social, emotional attachment with other people. The person is a detached one, who absolutely depends on oneself. At this stage, a person faces crises and obstacles in the development of personality without doldrums, pain, hurt, defiance, exhalation, love, hate and rebellion (Meyerson, 2016).

The protagonist of the story, Eveline, also passes through the sixth stage. The readers are presented with a character, Eveline, who seems to be on the verge of falling apart, of disintegration of identity, something like Hamlet, and here Eveline is faced with two conflicting phases of her personal life. On the other hand, she dreams of a better life with Frank. Eveline seems to be trapped by memories of certain events

from her past. She keeps holding on to those moments and allows them to control her thoughts and actions. However, those memories and past events no longer provide her with comfort or a good reason for the way she lives in the present. Resultantly, she remains emotionally attached to the past instead of moving forward and dealing with his current situation.

In this short story, James Joyce shows how a child's life changes over time. Eveline's indecisiveness reflects her inner conflict. On the one hand, she desires to elope with Frank, who represents her desire for freedom and escape from the restrictions imposed on her. The journey on the night boat to Buenos Aires symbolizes a movement away from her miserable life toward a potentially liberated future. On the other hand, she is emotionally and psychologically attached to the place she is leaving behind and the promise given at the side of her mother's deathbed to "keep the home together as long as she could" (p.18). As a result, she is indecisive as her thoughts vacillate between the desire to escape and the fear of change.

The negligence of Eveline's father pushes her into a ditch of inferiority from which she never comes out. Like her father, her brother Harry also neglects her in the family circle. Eveline constantly gives her whole pay to her brother Harry, which is round seven shillings. "She always gave her entire wages seven shillings and Harry always sent up what he could but the trouble was to get any money from her father"(p. 17). But in return for her reward to her brother, Harry, he is skeptical about Eveline and thinks that she spends money on unnecessary things and not on the things that the family needed. "He said she used to squander the money, that she had no head" (p. 17). The indifferent attitude and negligence of her brother also created a bad impact on her decision-making power. Eveline's one brother Ernest is dead and the other brother Harry has the business of church decoration, and he is somewhere in the country, which Eveline feels insecure for herself. After the death of her mother, she feels, "now she had nobody to protect her. Ernest was dead and Harry, who was in church decorating business, was nearly always down somewhere in the country"(p.17). For her, there is no support and she has no confidence in herself. During her childhood, she faced the rough behavior of her father which badly affected her mental health and decision - making power. Confidence makes a person strong enough to decide things for a better future. However, her confidence cripples due to family issues in her life.

According to Erikson's theory of personality, when a person gains confidence and

achieves autonomy to make decisions for himself or herself, the individual experiences a heightened sense of psychological well-being and emotional fulfillment. It is also to be noted if decision goes wrong, a person will feel disappointment. In such an abysmal situation, inferiority complex will haunt his/her personality, and he or she will never handle external pressure. The protagonist of the story, Eveline, similarly encounters deep personal and psychological pressure. Her lack of self-confidence contributes to a negative perspective, making it difficult for her to perform her roles and responsibilities as a daughter, socially responsible individual and good girlfriend. Eveline could not take the decision either to go away from her home or to stay at home. She accepts to go away from her home but tries to weigh her question: "She had consented to go away, to leave her home. Was that wise? She tried to weigh each side of the question" (p. 17). However, she fails in her attempt to leave her home.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries England, including Ireland, elopement was often considered negatively because marriage was regarded not only as a personal relationship between two individuals but also as a religious and family institution. An elopement could be seen as an act of disobedience and a threat to established social norms (Foster, 1988). Eveline's inability to decide whether to elope with Frank or remain at home to preserve family unity reflects her lack of confidence and her struggle to resolve an internal psychosocial conflict as presented by Erikson. She is caught between her personal desire for independence and her sense of familial duty, which makes it harder for her to opt for either choice. From an Eriksonian perspective, this conflict can be interpreted through Erikson's fifth stage of identity versus role confusion, in which a young person struggles to establish a stable sense of self while negotiating competing social and familial expectations. In the story, Eveline's hesitation uncovers that she has not yet fully developed the confidence and autonomy necessary to define her identity independently of the roles imposed upon her by her family. Her psychological paralysis, therefore, represents a struggle to reconcile her personal desires with the expectations attached to her familial and social roles.

Eveline is about to run away with her lover Frank: "She was about to explore another new life with Frank" (p.17). However, she refuses to go away with Frank as she remembers the promise of her mother to keep the home together. "Strange that it should come that very day to remind her promise to her mother, her promise to keep the home together as long as she could" (p.18). Irish traditions play their role in life

of an individual. The music of the organ-player reminds her of her promise to her dying mother "[S]he was again in the close dark room at the other end of the hall and outside she heard a melancholy air of Italy" (p.18). Applying Erikson's sixth stage, Intimacy vs. Isolation, to Eveline's character, the study shows that Eveline fails to reconcile her past experiences with her present, which makes it difficult for her to form a secure intimate relationship. In Stage 6, Erikson states that young adults need to develop the capacity for love, intimacy, commitment, and mutual relationships. If a person cannot integrate his or her earlier experiences and establish an unstable sense of self, he or she may experience isolation and emotional withdrawal. In Eveline's case, the past continues to "besiege" her present. Therefore, she is caught between attachment to the past and the possibility of intimacy in the present. Her inability to reconcile these two sides produces fear, hesitation and emotional instability. From an Eriksonian lens, this can be presented as a struggle within Intimacy vs. Isolation, because Eveline cannot move toward an intimate relationship with Frank while remaining psychologically deeply tied to the past. Her indecisiveness and ambivalence show how unresolved past experiences can interfere with the development of commitment and emotional closeness.

Eveline does not seek only a perfect romantic relationship but also seeks emotional connection, physical closeness and recognition. "[S]he wanted to live" (p.19). Eveline does not utter a single word, but her mind is full of echoes. She is capable only of "moving her lips in silent fervent prayer" (p.19) and then utters "a cry of anguish" (p.19). She fails to express her feelings in words. Joyce reveals Eveline's thought do not follow a particular pattern or logical sequence as her move from one memory to another. She thinks about her childhood games, her dead mother, elopement with Frank, her abusive father and her duty to take care of her family. It also reflects how human consciousness works.

Erikson's theory of Psychosocial Personality Development argues that children who experience a secure and supportive childhood and develop a strong sense of self in adulthood tend to maintain a positive outlook and show greater freedom rather than relying on others. In the novel, one can see that Frank has more liberty to decide his fate. He works on a ship and has travelled to many countries, so, he has the stories of remote countries. "He had the tales of distant countries (18). He is very free as compared to Eveline that he used to meet her outside home regularly at evening. Frank has a gracious past; his parents never prohibited him from doing thing

by their own. They always allowed him to do things without imposing their own wills. On the other hand, Eveline is stuck in the sixth stage as she fails to make any decision about her future, highlighting that Frank has more liberty and enjoys life according to his own taste. This reveals that when a child is denied the autonomy to make decisions and act according to their own will, he or she may experience a deep sense of isolation, which can adversely affect his or her psychological development. During her childhood, Eveline also experiences both physical and emotional isolation, a situation that continues to shape her later life in Irish society. The rigid social environment limits her freedom to express her feelings openly, thereby intensifying her sense of isolation. She fails to think normally as she suffers from mental illness. She is trapped between “to be or not to be”. Eveline's life is full of miserable conditions, she thinks that going away with Frank will help her to eradicate this miserable life and will enable her to have a happy life. But this is only a dream as she fails to act practically.

Eloping with Frank to Argentina represents Eveline's only opportunity to pursue a happier and more fulfilling life. However, her abusive father prevents her from realizing this aspiration, transforming it into an unfulfilled dream. Eveline experiences a sudden moment of revelation an epiphany a deep realization that gives her the confidence to confront her problems and seek a way out of her troubled situation. However, this sense of determination lasted for a short period. Though, she initially decides to leave her home in search of a better life, her resolve weakens at the railway station, where she ultimately reverses her decision and returns home. Her retreat signifies the conflict between her desire for freedom and the social, emotional, patriarchal and psychological forces that continue to restrict her choices. Resultantly, even after hearing the deep inner voice known as “Epiphany,” Eveline remains unable to break free from social and cultural constraints of Irish society. However, the ill-treatment she receives from her father following her mother's death, coupled with an adverse upbringing, prevents Eveline from eloping with Frank. Her decisiveness stems partly from her hesitant disposition and, more importantly, from the internalized negative stereotypes about men that have shaped her view of herself and her choices. As James Joyce sums it up: “She set her white face to him, passive, like helpless animals. Her eyes gave him no sign of love or farewell or recognition “(p.19).

From the preceding study we concluded that there are certain factors which lead Eveline towards Intimacy vs. Isolation. She is stuck in the sixth stage of Erikson's

psychosocial theory of personality development because she is unable to make any decision regarding her future. She could not deal with her social and private life and is caught in the quagmire of her past life. She fails to develop cordial relationship with parents, friends and neighbors. Her life is hopeless and she is depressed in her patriarchal society where women are not allowed even to express their feelings.

Conclusion

This study concludes that certain factors lead Eveline towards Intimacy Vs. Isolation. She is stuck in the sixth stage of Erikson's psychosocial theory of personality development because she is unable to make any decision regarding her future. She could not deal with her social and private life and was caught in the quagmire of her past life. She fails to develop cordial relationships with parents, friends and neighbors. She had a terrible childhood. Her mother passed away in her childhood and she had to take care her young brothers and her abusive father. One can draw an analogy between Eveline and the sixth stage of Erickson's Psychosocial theory of personality development. Erickson also discusses that a child who has an awful childhood and mental issues will not move to the next stage of life with confidence. He or she will not think freely and he or she will be bound to the choice of others especially their parents. Therefore, it is concluded that Eveline could not develop her personality because she remained suppressed by patriarchal society. Marriage with Frank might help bring happiness in her life but she was a custodian of the past. In our society, one can find such cases where girls remain nostalgic about the past, behaving like adults to complete the mission of their parents. They have no voice in their matrimonial affairs. They cannot develop their personalities because they are suppressed by patriarchal society. In the story, Eveline also has a miserable life and she seeks refuge in her past life. This indecisiveness leads her to Intimacy vs. Isolation and thus she cuts off herself from the society. The study concludes that patriarchal society always suppresses women and does not allow them to express their feelings. They remain dormant and passive and they could not enhance their abilities to cope with new situations. The study finds that the negligence of female children by parents tempts them to look for love and compassion outside their home and thus fall prey to the myriad of sexual predators lurking outside their homes; thus, this negligence will lead to an increase in sexual assaults perpetrated against children and young girls.

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