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Domestic Abuse in Liane Moriarty's *Big Little Lies*

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Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization*

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Dedication

*I dedicate this humble work to the soul of my friend **Ihab**. May he rest in peace;
his soul was a source of inspiration.*

*My deepest gratitude to my family, who contributed to making my working
conditions more manageable.*

*I am beyond delighted to dedicate a significant dedication to my friends
Ibtissem who have been supportive through all phases of my research journey*

And to those who inspired it and will not read it

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Epigraph

The past is never dead. It's not even past.

—*William Faulkner, Requiem for a Nun*

Abstract

This research work sheds the lights on domestic violence from Lian Moriarty's perspective in her novel *Big Little Lies* (2014). Domestic violence is a serious a social phenomenon that spread over the existence; even in the twenty-first century, women are still exposed to violence by their fathers, brothers, and husband. This extended essay aims to study the novel *Big Little Lies* under the lenses of Michael Johnson's theory "Typologies of Domestic Violence" that is concerned with situational couple violence, intimate terrorism, resistance violent, and mutual violent control. A literature review of domestic violence in general and more specifically Johnson's point of view is explored in the theoretical chapter. In the thematic chapters, we will apply Johnson's theory on the novel and investigate the effects of an abusive environment and the traumatic experiences on the child's development.

Keywords: *Big Little Lies*- Johnson's theory – Lian Moriarty- Childhood trauma - parental role - Toxic relationship- abusive/ victim.

المخلص

يلقي هذا العمل الضوء على العنف المنزلي من منظور ليان مورياتي في روايته أكاذيب صغيرة كبيرة (2014). يعتبر العنف المنزلي ظاهرة اجتماعية خطيرة انتشرت طوال الحياة، حتى في القرن الحادي والعشرين، ولا تزال المرأة تتعرض للعنف من آبائها وإخوتها وأزواجها. يهدف هذا المقال إلى دراسة رواية أكاذيب صغيرة كبيرة من منظور نظرية "نماذج العنف المنزلي" لمايكل جونسون والتي تتعلق بالعنف بين الزوجين، والإرهاب الحميم، والمقاومة العنيفة، والسيطرة المتبادلة العنيفة. في الفصل الأول، سنقوم بمراجعة الأدبيات حول العنف المنزلي في الأدبيات العامة وبشكل أكثر تحديداً من وجهة نظر ليان وجونسون. في الفصل الثاني، سوف نطبق نظرية جونسون الموضوعية. أخيراً، لتحقيق هدف تحقيقنا، سنناقش آثار البيئة المسيئة والتجارب المؤلمة على نمو الطفل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: أكاذيب صغيرة كبيرة - نظرية جونسون - ليان مورياتي - صدمة الطفولة - الأبوة والأمومة - علاقة سامة - سوء معاملة / ضحية.

Résumé

Ce travail apporte un éclairage sur la violence domestique du point de vue de Liane Moriarty dans son roman *Big Little Lies* (2014). La violence domestique est un phénomène social grave qui s'est répandu au cours de l'existence, même au vingt-et-unième siècle, les femmes sont toujours exposées à la violence de leurs pères, frères et maris. Cet essai vise à étudier le roman *Big Little Lies* sous l'angle de la théorie de Michael Johnson "Typologies de la violence domestique" qui concerne la violence de couple situationnelle, le terrorisme intime, la résistance violente et le contrôle mutuel violent. Dans le premier chapitre, nous ferons une revue de littérature sur la violence domestique dans la littérature générale et plus spécifiquement dans le point de vue de Lian et Johnson. Dans le deuxième chapitre, nous appliquerons la théorie thématique de Johnson. Enfin, pour répondre à l'objectif de notre enquête, nous aborderons les effets d'un environnement abusif et des expériences traumatiques sur le développement de l'enfant.

Mots-clés : *Big Little Lies*- théorie de Johnson - Lian Moriarty- traumatisme de l'enfance - rôle parental - relation toxique- abusif/ victime.

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General Introduction

Since the twentieth century violence started to spread and the world had become suffering from fear and control, while peace disappeared. Violence was passed from one generation to another in more aggressive and dangerous ways. Literary texts have an interest in the representation of reality through writing. Many females' writers witness it as a task to explore the major problems in the human world. Domestic violence and the oppression of women is one of the most discussed themes in literature. Throughout history, women mainly have been victims of patriarchy, and they have been underprivileged of their social, economic, and political rights.

Domestic violence is a recurrent theme in the twenty-first century writers still tackled this theme from a postmodern perspective. It affects women's lives at all levels; socially, economically, politically, physically, and psychologically. Nowadays, domestic violence do not only concern women being abused but also on how they react when they are beaten. Researchers and scholars are investigating the effects of violence on victims and children. Among the females whose texts demonstrate domestic and psychological fiction; is Lian Moriarty, an Australian novelist.

Liane Moriarty is known for her first New York-bestselling book of *The Husband's Secret*. In her book, *Big Little Lies*, published in 2014, she based her writing on a true story she has heard from the radio, where she aimed to developed the events and the characters in a realistic way. Domestic violence is the main theme in the novel, other relatable themes such as marriage, family, friendship, Youth, Women, and Femininity are including. The phenomenon of domestic violence was portrayed with its consequences on mothers and their children. However, the depiction of the abusive environment is different from typical events in any other novel that tackled domestic violence.

The author tackles the subject of violence and its effect on various female characters, taking into consideration the root of such behaviours of most characters who experience domestic violence. These past events help the victim either to batter and survive or to be submissive. Moriarty creates strong mothers' characters who fight back and stand with their children in the most challenging times. Lian Moriarty is famous for writing about children; she converges the relationship between children and their parents. Domestic violence is a complex issue that goes beyond the individual, it is a social phenomenon where victims need help and solutions because it has horrific consequences that mainly concern mental health issues.

Big Little Lies suggests that psychological violence can be even more damaging than physical violence. More precisely if violence is a family affair, if the parents are abusive, there is a high chance that the child will inherit abusive behaviours from his parent. Moriarty highlights several different kinds of families; there is a single mom, Jane, who has her own world with her little Ziggy. Celeste has twins that are the result of much tryings and hope. Madeline, the mother who struggles because her husband had left her with a little girl. Jane and Celeste are the mothers who experience physical and psychological violence from the same man; however, Celeste is his wife while Jane, the girl he met in the nightclub.

Michael Paul Johnson is an expert on domestic violence, a professor of sociology, women's studies, African, and African American studies, And the founder of "Johnson Typologies.". In 2008, he wrote a book entitled *A Typology of Domestic Violence: Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, and Situational Couple Violence*, where he explored the theme of domestic violence and classified it into four major dimensions. Each type would be identified according to the situation between the abuser and the victim. Lian Moriarty highlighted these typologies in her novel *Big Little Lies*.

The aim of this research is centered on attempting to bring answers to the questions that triggered me while I finish reading the novel *Big Little lies*. Because the types of violence that are used in the storyline were different from the common ones, it was not just a cruel behaviour; much more than that, the violence was about the action and the reaction. The level of violence started to increase over time in the novel, and it is one of the essential characteristics in Johnson's theory. Several research questions were developed to help organize and guide this research:

1. In which way Lian Moriarty presented domestic violence in *Big Little lies* under the umbrella of Johnson's theory "Typologies of Domestic Violence"?
2. How much does domestic violence affect parents' / children's development?

The hypotheses proposed as an answer to the previous questions are as follows:

1. Domestic violence shaped in Big Little Lies in a different forms and strategies could the abuser and the victim experience.
2. The child's development based on the dynamic system of parent relationship as it could be influenced by the childhood of parents themselves.

In an attempt to answer the previous questions, this extended essay is divided into three chapters. The first one is a literature review of domestic violence/ abuse, and the representation of this theme in literature; specifically, in Lian Moriarty's novel. It is based on a historical background in multiple writers' perspectives and the new theory that was developed by Johnson. Over time, the literature frame linked its texts with other fields, such as sociology and psychology.

As for the second chapter tackles the application of Johnson's theory "Domestic Violence Typologies." in the novel *Big Little Lies*. Moriarty demonstrated the three major types

of domestic violence, the situational couple violent, the least damaged one when an argument turns to a fight. It was the case between Perry and Celest. The partner is not willing to control; however, it might lead to violent actions. The next step is; violent resistance which is the reaction of the victim. Celeste fights back whenever the argument turns to a fight, and Perry abuses her. The latter reaction could be considered as self-defense. Lastly, the most dangerous situation is intimate terrorism, where the perpetrator is willing to take total control over his partners. In the long term, the violence increased from a small pattern until it reaches the peak where it becomes horrific behaviours.

Finally, the third chapter sheds light on the effect of an abusive environment on a child's development. Perry's son tends to be violent at school, just like his father's abusive behaviours. There is a high possibility that children grab their parent's behaviours. Childhood trauma is investigated in the novel through the parent's childhood to the children themselves. The healing process could be achieved unless the parent faces their trauma and deals with it.

In order to investigate the questions submitted in this research, the novel *Big Little* lies main theme, domestic abuse is thematically studies under Johnson's theory "Typologies of Domestic Violence". In addition to the psychoanalytic that is use in the last chapter. The seventh edition of *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* was used in the works cited section, in-text citations, and some methods of writing.

Chapter One

Literature Review

I. 1. Introduction

Literature has always been a bridge between literary writings and other fields of knowledge: religions, psychology, sociology, philosophy, science... Some basic human necessities can only be achieved and fulfilled by a sound family. Along the way, violence is one of the complex issues passed over time; from generation to another, domestic violence is public well-being concern phenomenon in the twenty-first century. This chapter presents a brief overview of domestic violence and its representation through literary works by different authors, psychologists, and sociologists. Eventually, Liane Moriarty's *Big Little Lies* is among contemporary literary works that represent domestic violence.

I. 2. Domestic Violence

Over the past decades, scholars and researchers have abjured domestic violence as a psychological and social problem, it mainly concerns women and children. Human Rights Watch defines domestic violence as "a form of aggression perpetrated by one family member against another. It includes a pattern of behaviours involving physical, sexual, economic, and emotional abuse, used alone or in combination, by an intimate partner often to establish and maintain power and control over the other partner." A cruel act by one of the relatives, such as wife/ husband, parent/ children, and brother/sister.

The terminology of the term "Domestic" has always been associated with the minimization of abuse. According to Mullender, who explains this idea by giving the example of "the police would not respond on the same level to an assault if it were 'just a domestic' as they would to an assault in a public place" (8). The issue experiences have been a private difficulty for a long time; it now needs to become a public issue. As a result, "Today's 'domestic'

is too frequently tomorrow's murder" (Mullender 8). The level of violence increase gradually it can start with an argument until becomes a murder.

Women would prefer the term domestic abuse rather than domestic violence; nearly domestic abuse represents emotional and mental abuse. Meanwhile, domestic violence is more concerned with physical abuse only. The abuse of power in one partner's intimate relationship with another increases gradually and it leads to multiple aggressive behaviours, including physical, sexual, economic, and emotional maltreatment. In addition to psychological mistreatment involves "intimidation, harassment, damage to property, threats, and financial abuse" (Humphreys et al.14). Domestic violence covers a wide range of abuse, from emotional abuse to physical violence. It also covers issues that mainly concern women from minority ethnic backgrounds, such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and so-called honour violence (Department of Health 10). The Primary Healthcare Professionals collaborate with abused women who survived and succeeded in spreading the awareness and recognition of domestic abuse; moreover, the research discloses the universal social phenomena of domestic abuse as a "public health issue that indiscriminately crosses geographical and demographic boundaries" (Bradbury-Jones et al 3057). the abuse is considered as a global phenomenon that goes beyond the geographical borders.

According to the non-ministerial government departments organisation The Home Office, any violent or abusive incident of threatening behaviour, "psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional" between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality" (3). The previous definition demonstrates that the abuse could appear in multiple relationships; between men against women and women against men. The Department of Health reported that 90% of the abuse perpetrates by men against women. Domestic violence is a global plague that murders, tortures, and maims in all human's

rights; physically, psychologically, sexually, and economically. It is considered as the most prevalent of human rights violations.

I. 3. Typology of Domestic Violence

The behaviours that are mostly called domestic violence manifest in different actions and ways which gives different outcomes. According to Lockton & Ward "domestic violence can take on a variety of different aspects. It can be physical assault, sexual abuse, threats either, or psychological abuse." (7). Each one has its characteristics. It is necessary to identify the type of actions; some victims got the visible wounds, and some got the invisible injuries. Psychologists classify the kind of violence depending on the steps and their impact on the abused.

Michael. P Johnson wrote a book titled *A Typology of Domestic Violence: Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, and Situational Couple Violence*, he explains the four typologies of domestic violence with details in different possibilities and situations. According to Johnson, the types of domestic violence change through time. More specifically, it develops during the history of a relationship; thus, the impacts and the causes of domestic violence would change simultaneously (4). Therefore, it is necessary to distinguish between its types and understand the control part in the relationship not to misunderstand intimate partner violence.

Intimate partner violence has four different types of domestic violence. The first and the most common type is intimate terrorism, where the abuser uses the power in several ways to take general control over the partner. The second type is violence resistance; the perpetrator is controlling and violent, parallelly the victim uses the violence over the perpetrator only to defend he is not willing to control. The third is situational couple violent; "the perpetrator is violent (his/ her partner may be as well); however, neither of them uses violence to attempt to exert general control." The last type is mutual violence, where both the preparator and the

individual use the violence, besides both are controlling. In each case, the individual, the abuser, and the partner, the victim, have been embodying a different position (Johnson 5). these types are characterized not only by the form but also by interpersonal dynamics that lead to the violence.

I. 3.1. Intimate Terrorism

The intimate terrorism in such case is the awful use of violence and intimidation between the couples that could leads to a death because the person took a whole control over the other. Johnson elucidates that the first of the four major types of intimate partner violence involve a violent attempt to take a total control of or at least generally to control the relationship (282). Thus, the central issue in intimate terrorism is *controlling*. In other words, the abusers always take control over the victims and give themselves the authority to maintain dominance; Johnson points that "the control sought in intimate terrorism is a general and long-term. Although each particular act of intimate violence may have any number of short-term, specific goals, the violence is embedded in a larger pattern of coercive control that permeates the relationship." (284). The violence starts to become larger over time in the relationship.

The objective of violence is indeed using the power to hold general control. However, intimate terrorism contains physical violence, emotional abuse, isolation, intimidation, psychological abuse, and economic abuse. According to Johnson, intimate terrorism is about violent, and coercive control. The intimate terrorist uses physical violence combined with other control tactics to exercise general coercion over his partner. As a result, in intimate violence, the preparators do not only rely on violent actions; but also, they use nonviolent control tactics. Victims of intimate terrorism often report, "all he had to do was look at me that way, and I would do whatever he wanted" (Dobash). That shows the fear of the victim they live in with the least nonviolent act, a look.

I. 3.2. Violent Resistance

With Violent resistance, women resist when they feel terrorized by the abuser, in a way that fighting back without fear where "violent resistance is that the resistor, faced with an intimate terrorist, uses violence but not in an attempt to take general control over her partner or the relationship." (Johnson). For example, women use incitive defence when they faced physical violence; however, women do not control the relationship in the violent resistance. Instead, women's violent reaction is a technique to stop the abuser. Johnson argues that generally, heterosexual women cannot fight back because of the usual size between men and women. Thus, they make the situation worse.

Violent resistance is a reaction to intimate terrorism; because the abused resists, reacts, fights back, hits back and attacks the preparator. However, they are not attempting to take general control over their relationship with the partner. Victims assume that the saviour way; is either suicide or kill their torturer. Although they were not perpetrators but still engaging in violent resistance, these "victim-defendants"(Durfee 523). Arrests have negatively affected victims and their families.

I. 3.3. Situational Couple Violence

The third typology of intimate partner violence is situational couple violence, which results from a conflict. Johnson illustrates situational couple violence stating, "although the individual is violent, neither partner is both violent and controlling" (11). The controlling motive involved can be part of a general pattern of coercive control. This kind of violence emerged from an unavoidable conflict between men and women; the competition in an abusive way leads to violence. Hence, in this situation, specifically, the violence is a reaction to several fights and disagreements; most of the intimate relationships face struggles; in which in some

situation's violence is an act of provoking from both partners. For example, one partner may find that the discussion blooming them and winning the fight must go through the physical acts.

Situational couple violence is based more on the interpersonal dynamics of conflict conduct and communication than one's willingness to control the partner. Despite the impulse for such violence vary, physical violence is the only way to express the inner-anger. At the same time, mostly, it ended with an injury to get the partner's attention and include verbal aggression. However, Johnson did not minimise the situational couple violence by mentioning that given acts in situational couple violence can serve, albeit the circumstances are quite different from intimate terrorism. In short, "What makes it situational couple violence is that it is rooted in the events of a particular situation rather than in a relationship- wide attempt to control." (Johnson 12). In other words, in situational couple violence both partners are not willing to control each other.

I. 3.4. Mutual Violent Control

Mutual violent control, one of the rare situations: when both the partner and the individual are controlling and violent. Besides, according to the founder of these typologies, Johnson claims that:

We know very little about the dynamics of such relationships other than that they seem to involve the "mutual combat" that researchers have for decades attributed to any relationship in which partners reported that they had been violent. In most such cases, however, that so-called mutual violence was a product of intimate terrorism with violent resistance or situational couple violence in which both partners had been violent. (12)

Mutual violent control includes the intimate terrorist behaviours within the resistance violence that both partners use. The connection between the three types of domestic violence results from mutual violence. However, few people experience such violence.

I. 4. Forms of Domestic Violence

According to the previous definitions, domestic violence is not only physical behaviour. It can be an act of commission and neglect which occurs between the partners as close intimate individuals. The perpetrators combine physical, psychological, emotional, economic, and sexual abuse in one situation.

I. 4.1. Physical Violence

Physical violence or horrific violence is the most common one. The preparator uses dreadful actions such as Shaking, smacking, punching, kicking, presence of a finger or bite marks, starving, tying up, stabbing, suffocation, throwing things, using objects as weapons, female genital mutilation, 'honour violence.' Professionals of The Health Department state that Physical effects are often in areas of the body covered and hidden (11). Victims of the physical violence they often feel a shame of their bodies because of the bruises that take time to disappear.

Controlled and impulsive physical abuse comprise a physical assault. Which generally ends, with physical damage, injuries, bruising, broken bones, burns or stab wounds, and self-harm. Although some abusers leave no physical evidence, they use torture tools such as "inflicting ice-cold baths or asphyxiation or incarcerating their victim by locking them up." (Sanderson 23). physical neglect is another essential kind, is a part of coercive control, in which the preparator withholding the basic needs as can be seen in food, cloth, shelter, .and sleep. Death can be a horrible result for some victims; the long-term suffering in physical violence

destroys them. In addition, it led to children being traumatized psychologically more than being affected physically. As Bollen et al. state, "The domestic violence results are severe, the trauma lifelong" (7). In article entitled "Types of Domestic Violence Experienced by Women in Abusive Relationships." Slabbert et al highlight the experience of a victim " Where one of the victims describing the situation with these words, "Sometimes, if I am asleep, he will throw water over me that I am drenched. He shoved my head in the toilet " (234). These cruel behaviours do not only destroy the physical state, but also, the mental health pf the victim.

I. 4.2. Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse can be verbal and non-verbal. This type includes more verbal assaults, because it has more impact, its underestimate the sense of self-confidence. Especially if the insult happens in front of children or other people. Mainly The verbal assaults it is the used of nasty name-calling, embarrassing words, controlling the partner's relationship with others. The majority of researchers claim that psychological abuse is accompanied by physical abuse. Thus, both forms of abuse are equally devastating. Moreover, victims often experience both together; authors such as Browne and Herbert (83), Romito (17), and Sanderson (23) are of the thought that emotional abuse is more persistent than the physical one and more difficult to notice (Slabbert et al. 238). Because the victims are living in a fear where they cannot react or being see, the consequences might be worse that it is.

Furthermore, a partner's abusive actions would affect women psychologically. However, it is difficult for the victim to recognize the psychological abuse; generally, women neglect it by adopting the concept of battered wives to create excuses. One of the women who experienced the emotional abuse state that "And then there is the verbal abuse. I do not mind all the physical stuff, but the words ... they hurt the most. Your bruises disappear, but the words ...they remain." (Slabbert et al. 239). Verbal aggression inflicts emotional pain because it often

occurs to offend the personality and character of the abuse; women generally receive negative feedback from their partner in multiple aspects such as competence, beauty, and attractiveness

I. 4.3. Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is a form of domestic violence; when the perpetrator asks for sexual activities without the women's approval, forcing the partner to engage in a sexual relationship, which is considered as rape. Generally, women who are not aware of their rights do not realize the sexual abuse. In contrast, men assume that they have the privilege to ask about their needs whenever they wish, without considering the women's emotional state. Thus, treating women as a sexual object. Several studies have been done by Bollen et al., Chapleau, Oswald & Russel, Parenzee & Smythe indicate that fact that "women's discomfort regarding certain sexual acts expected by their partners while continuing to comply with these behaviours because they see it as an obligation towards their partners" (qtd Slabbert et al. 240). Thus, they justify this sexual abuse as its their rights and needs.

According to The Health Department Professionals, sexual abuse mainly consists of "Forced sex, forced prostitution, ignoring religious prohibitions about sex, refusal to practice safe sex, sexual insults, sexually transmitted diseases, preventing breastfeeding" (11). Subsequently, physical violence is associated with sexual abuse (Frieze 532). Some women choose to be silent because they believe that their position is about guilt, shame, and fear from others' perspectives. Bollen et al. noted that there is an unspoken code of silence "of all four types of abuse, sexual abuse is the least reported, the reason for this code of silence being the social stigma attached to sexual abuse" (25). Women announced that she was being treated as sexual objects and forced to wear "sexy" clothes that she does not like. while one of the victims stated, "It is like that he sometimes forces me to have sex if he is under the influence of drugs."

(Slabbert et al. 239). The sexual abuse it is often the use of force or taking advantage of another person in order to satisfied the perpetrator needs by any means.

I 4.4. Economic/ Financial Abuse

Economic abuse implies that the partner is taking total control over the financial decisions. Some abusers depend on their partner's income, while others control the outcome in all life aspects; transports, food, holidays...etc. In other words, "not letting a woman work, undermining efforts to find work or study, refusing to give money, asking for an explanation of how every penny is spent, making her beg for money, gambling, not paying bills" (Health Department 1). Meanwhile, irresponsible behaviours from the men suppress the women to fund their money for the necessary needs.

Some men deny the partner access to the money, refuse to contribute to the family resources, and impose on women to take complete charge of housekeeping and child-rearing tasks. Research made by Davhana-Maselesele, Myburg, and Poggenpoel found that women cannot estimate their money without the men acceptance "they could not buy what they wanted to buy and had to get their partners' approval for any financial decision" (qtd in Slabbert et al. 240). Especially working women do not have the authority for their salary; often the money is wasted or misspends on unnecessaries. A victim who had been economically abused comment, "and I could not get out of the situation. Who is going to pay for the house, who is going to look after the children? What about the medical aid? Financially he did not do his part. He drank away all our money, and we lost the house. I was like a prisoner, and he had the keys." (qtd in Slabbert et al. 239). The abuser tends to control the money of the partners in addition to make her limited.

I. 5. Consequence of Domestic Violence

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, and the Centre for Disease Control survey examined the domestic violence situation of 8,000 United States' women and men about their experiences of domestic abuse. The analysis of the study indicates the following results: about 25% of 8,000 US women and 7.6% of 8,000 US men were raped or assaulted by their consort. Therefore, 1.5% of women and 0.9% of men were victims of domestic violence in the periodic phase. (Tjaden et al. 8)

The impacts of domestic violence do not only affect the home circle, the intimate partner, and children. But also, the acts would maintain in all life aspects. Researchers agree that children who witness domestic violence several times are likely to abuse their partner and children in the future. The challenging circumstances and conditions that the children are experiencing will be a vital source for transmitting violent behaviours over time, from one generation to the other. Tadjan and Thoennes support this idea, the two writers of *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence* (2000) stating that the consequence of intimate partner abuse is a serious family and public interest.

The psychological consequences are the most serious concern. Generally, people who experienced domestic violence suffer from post-trauma stress, depressions, anxiety, isolation, panic attack, sleeping, and eating disorders. These factors lead to self-harming, carelessness, and limit ability towards the self and others. In many cases, it ends with two tragic incidents; homicide and suicide. The criminal act of murder is known for committing suicide by the preparators after murdering one family member, either the wife or the children.

I. 6. Domestic Violence Timeline in American and British society

Domestic violence was historically considered normative in the Middle Ages; it was not legally stated because children and women were punished corporally by the father or the husband. As a result, it was natural social relations between family members, "Whoever was to blame, or whatever were the social and economic anxieties contributing to familial violence, many children in the Middle Ages suffered the consequences and passed on what they learned to their children." (Dinshaw 55). Creating an advanced society based on the family is the basic block; however, considering domestic violence as a norm behaviour leads to uncivilized generations through time.

I. 6.1. From the 1500s to the 1800s

Early colonist in America established their laws on an old English common law that allowed the husband to beat his wife for adjustment purposes. Precisely, the United State break down that law by emphasizing that the beating will be only a switch no bigger than his thumb. In 1871, Alabama was the first state to annualize men's legal right to hit their wives, dues to American society's creation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.; the first child protection agency in the world. It prevented any cruelty to women in 1866. On the other hand, in 1882, Maryland was the first state to consider a wife-torture a crime punishable by 40 lashes or a year in jail (Oakland University). Ultimately, during the late 1800s, wives can no longer be under men's obsession. Any abusive behaviour could lead to a divorce. In addition, wives and daughters can no longer be sold into prostitution. It was coinciding with Queen Elizabeth's rise, who enacted legislation that related to women.

I. 6.2. From the 1900s to the 1980s

At the beginning of the 1900s, it was essential to deal with a family issue in a civil state; the new family court was created with social service intervention. Years after the women's vote declaration was announced. Finally, women are allowed to vote after a long battle. In 1965, Congress started passing laws that prohibited discrimination against women in jobs that require equal pay. Thus, the battered women's movement was born in the 1970s, where women began to take place and were established in society. Within the raising communities and organization, survivor's women had been offered safe places. Later on, in the late 1970s, domestic violence became a locally, nationally, and international public opinion case. And it began to be viewed as a punishable crime. Early to mid-1980s, the Domestic violence movement began to shed light on the protection of the victims and children. So far, The United States has 1200 battered women programs which shelter 300,000 women and children per year. (Tjaden et al. 9).

I. 6.3. From the 1990s Till Now

The beginning was the identification of stalking as a crime; in 1990, for the first time, judges are asked to consider any history of domestic abuse before determining child custody or visitation rights. In addition, social security collaborates with more than 2,000 organizations nationwide, such; The Silent Witness Project, Day One Services Victim, Information Notification every day, open a phone line service for battered women to find shelter easily. In the late 1900s, October was planned as Domestic Violence Awareness month. Recently, the whole world is passing through a difficult phase. A global pandemic is spreading, known as the coronavirus pandemic. Although people worldwide had been confined for an extended period of seven months or more, violence in homes became more frequent, more severe, and more dangerous during the period of lockdown. According to the Journal of clinic nursing, "

the mass efforts to save lives have put women in abusive relationships more at risk." It shows that home is not always a safe place. Yet, some governments decided to take action in terms of protecting and supporting services that provide crisis and psychological support to victim-survivors.

I. 7. Domestic Violence in Literature

Literary works have always been a way to reflect reality; it is essential to investigate the novels' origins and their representation over time. Literature has continuously transmitted aspects of reality through multiple generations through novels, short stories, novellas, and other genres based on the rising of the novel, books started to take a new shape, natural events, and real characters connected to the real world. As a consequence, literary movements increasingly appear, and they rise simultaneously. In the nineteenth, one of the essential fictions that come into sight; the domestic fiction, or sentimental fiction. According to Oxford University Press and Columbia Encyclopaedia, "the term used to describe a body of popular narrative literature written by, for, and about women that flourished during the mid-nineteenth century."

I. 7.1 Domestic in Fiction

Sentimental fiction is a type of fiction that was widespread in the early-to-mid-nineteenth century. It was addressed to women, from female writers. Particular elements characterized domestic fiction, to be exact, the central plot of a brave woman with a strong personality and an ignorant beauty. In addition, women were portrayed in the heroic image by adopting the warrior character who can potentially achieve greatness. Mosely, the female, was seen as someone who is struggling to control her emotions and desire. Self-mastery was an exciting theme in domestic fiction, especially when a woman faced religious struggles in submitting her feelings; it was known as Victorian religious novels. "Language of tears" was

used to evoke sympathy from the readers. Among the writers that dealt with Victorian religious, *The Woodlanders* (1886) by Thomas Hardy, *Omphalos* (1857) by the scientist Philip Henry Gosse, James Thomson's *City of Dreadful Night* (1870).

Abusive women also took place in domestic fiction because they are the real warriors and heroines; women suffered abuse by persons in positions of power, including father or husband. Therefore, depicting domestic violence in sentimental fiction was the clue for other women in domestic abuse awareness. Domestic fiction contained a remarkable women's perspective from both a female as a writer and a reader. According to Nina Baym, who simplify the plot in Sentimental fiction by saying

the story of a young girl deprived of the supports she had rightly or wrongly depended on to sustain her throughout life and is faced with the necessity of winning her way in the world. At the outset, she takes herself very lightly has no ego or a damaged one, and looks to the world to coddle and protect her. To some extent, her expectations are reasonable--she thinks that her guardians will nurture her. But the failure of the world to satisfy either reasonable or unreasonable expectations awakens the heroine to inner possibilities. By the novel's end, she has developed a strong conviction of her worth, resulting in which she does ask much of herself. She can meet her demands, and, inevitably, the change in herself has changed the world's attitude toward her, so much that was formerly denied her now comes unsought (qtd in Campbell).

In the ninety's century, domestic fiction spread broadly, where women of the middle-class proceeded to published novels in their proper names. On the other hand, others were targeted to be readers. Before the novels were published in form of books, they were published in magazines such as "Atlantic Monthly" and "McClure's.". The picture of domesticity was

portrayed realistically, domestic writers are considered to be important figures in the outgrowth of the second wave of feminist movements.

During 1830 and 1840, Carolin Gilman was an essential female writer in promoting domestic tranquillity to solve all nation's issues. One more female writer is Kate Chopin. Her works tackled the domestic women's struggles in her short story "Athenaise." (1896). Although domestic fiction was clearly for the white female writers, African American female authors also influenced others, such as Harriet Jacob slave's autobiography narrative in her book *Incidents in The Life of a Slave Girl* (1861). In Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, the plot focuses on domestic fiction in an abusive context.

Some male writers criticized the sentimental fiction such as Nathaniel Hawthorne where comment about it that "mob of scribbling women," and that women writers of domestic fiction were seeking only for commercial success. Many writers after agree on his comments like Henry James agreed with Hawthorne's assessment and considered domestic fiction "romantic." (Logan) , however, other male writers took place also in the domestic fiction where they support other female writers such as Herbert Ross Brown is considered as in important figure in the influence of the genre in the sentimental novel in America, in spite of the fact that his depiction of these novels as unrealistic escapism . in the 1970s and 1980s the project of recovering "lost" works written by women that includes domestic fiction has been done by the feminist critics in the academy. those are some male writers that tackled the domestic violence as a main subject; Evan Stark he has fruitful books' collection *Coercive control* (2007), *Responding to Domestic Violence: The Integration of Criminal Justice and Human Services* (2015), *Everything You Need to Know About Family Violence* (1995). As well as, Gavin de Becker the author of *the Gift of Fear* (1997) *Fear Less* (2002).

I. 7.2 Domestic violence in *Big Little Lies*

There are no two other ways about the importance of family. Human being's needs vary; among those needs, some human necessities can only be achieved and fulfilled by family; because it is the basic building block in society. The responsibility of building a family lies with parents whose relationship would affect their children psychologically, emotionally, and physically. Regardless be it a healthy or a toxic atmosphere. The presence of both parents in their child's life is of paramount importance since rearing sound children who avail themselves as individuals and as members of society has always been up to the parental role. Unfortunately, domestic violence increases every day in communities where men are the power holders and have the dominant controlling role. Therefore, it is a real phenomenon with throwbacks both on women as a mother and her child.

Liane Moriarty is the first New York-bestselling author of *the Husband's Secret* (2013). In her book, *Big Little Lies*, published in 2014, Moriarty portrays the role of mothers in a postmodern society; where three females characters experiences the mother role differently. Jane; the single mother, Celeste; the mother who is getting abused by her husband, and Madeline; the mother who is searching for her identity to raise her children ideally. The novel was based on true stories where Liane was influenced by a true story, she heard from the radio in which a woman recounted her parents' abusive relationship. The novel's realistic plot and vivid depiction were adapted in 2017 as a series collection by the producer David Edward Kelley

The novel starts in a dreamy modern atmosphere, located on a scenic peninsula outside Sydney, Australia. Moriarty introduces several sets of central female characters Representing white mothers from the middle and upper-class. She is known for her approach to the mixture

of fiction drama with chick-lit¹ in a modern way. USA Today reviews "Reading one of Liane Moriarty's novels is a bit like drinking a pink Cosmo laced with arsenic...a fun, engaging and sometimes disturbing read...Moriarty is back in fine form.". She succeeded in describing modern mothers' struggles in a world of competitive roles. Yet the battle lines between the parents have been drawn in the orientation day, between Madeline, who is feeling begrudge about her ex-husband and his new family, Celest, the one who seems to have everything: beautiful, rich, including being abused, and Jane the young single mother. It's one of those books that begins at the end. Then goes back to the present with flashbacks and all the events that led to this end.

I. 7.3 Why *Big Little Lies* ?

Once the reader penetrating the surface, a dark image will appear with little dark secrets. These ugly secrets are portrayed in domestic abuse, bullying, and rape. The book was reviewed by Michele Lauer-Bader where she stated that "Moriarty demonstrates an excellent talent for exposing the dark, seedy side of the otherwise 'perfect' family unit". The little lies are funny and sarcastic, yet to some extent, they are significant because these little lies ended up in a tragic accident. The book is structured so the reader would unfold everything in the last chapter, the killer and the person killed.

The cover page for Liane Moriarty's *Big Little Lies* flaunts a vast, colourful lollipop. It is an ideal metaphor for life on what seems sweet from the novel's characters lies and how they are sugar-coated hide behind smashed to bits. According to Memmott "*Big Little Lies* tolls a warning bell about the big little lies we tell to survive. It takes a powerful stand against domestic violence even as it makes us laugh at the adults whose silly costume party seems more

¹ Chick- lit is a term widely used in the 1990s and early 2000s to describe popular fiction targeted at younger women.

reminiscent of a middle-school dance". Technically, the lollipop is only for children; Moriarty shed light on how children could be psychologically hurt and shattered into a thousand pieces while living in an abusive environment.

I. 8. Conclusion

Scholars and researchers have dug into the phenomenon of domestic violence, willing to find solutions to help victims and study the abusers' behaviours. There are many theories that deal with domestic violence, among these theories is the new theoretical *Typologies of Domestic Violence; Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, Situational Couple Violence, and Mutual Violent control* by Michael P. Johnson. Domestic violence is presented in literary works from the early 1500s until the twenty-first century; it shapes different forms and aspects. Yet, the consequences differ from one situation to another. This representation of domestic violence and the mother's psychological state, which may traumatize her children unconsciously, will be discussed in the second chapter based on Liane Moriarty's book *Big Little Lies*.

**Chapter Two Domestic
Violence's Typologies in
*Big Little Lies***

II. 1. Introduction

Liane Moriarty's book *Big Little Lies* is a famous contemporary novel classified as psychological domestic fiction, in which she entitles the domestic violence theme within a mystery storyline. In 2008 Michael Paul Johnson, the emeritus professor of sociology, women's studies, and African and African American studies at Pennsylvania State University, published a book entitled *A Typology of Domestic Violence: Intimate Terrorism, Violent Resistance, and Situational Couple Violence*. He emphasizes on the four major types of intimate partner violence. Throughout multiple readings of Moriarty's book, we have noticed that the author demonstrates Johnson's typologies in intimate partner violence. This chapter will tackle domestic violence from Johnson's typologies perspective, by applying his theories and their characteristics that fit the context of the novel. And more importantly, a part of this chapter would be dedicated to examining the process of behaviours development from an argument to a violence.

II. 2. Intimate Terrorism and Controlling the Partner

Intimate terrorism is perpetuated largely in heterosexual relationships; some basic characteristics define intimate terrorism such as; violent and highly controlling men. In combination with physical violence and nonviolent tactics, Michael P. Johnson claims that intimate terrorism affects the abused psychologically and physically, "once a controlling partner has been violent, all of his other controlling actions take on the threat of violence. A look, a yell, a quiet warning, even an ostensibly benign request can have the emotional impact of a physical assault" (30). The characteristics of intimate terrorism were manifested in *Big Little Lies*, the two significant characters Celeste and Jane; both of the characters experience coercive

control by the same man. This last became a young mother at the age of Twenty-four. While Celeste, Perry's wife, is a victim mother of domestic violence.

In her book *Big Little Lies*, Liane Moriarty works on the development of the characters through the link of events by using the technique of spinning the readers initially. The events link between wealthy mothers who have children at the same primary school, and they all practice the mothering role in a modern way " *mothers took their mothering so seriously now. Their frantic little faces. Their busy little bottoms strutting into the school in their tight gym gear. Ponytails are swinging. Eyes fixed on the mobile phones held in the palms of their hands like a compass*" (italic added) (12). She used of sarcastic expression to describe how mothers nowadays are taking their responsibilities. But, on the other hand, parenting role is concerned with both mothers and fathers Moriarty states that "The fathers and there were more and more of them doing the school run these days were different. They rarely hurried, strolling past with a measured casualness. No big deal. All under control" (12). Fathers are responsible for their children's needs as well as mothers.

The Mothers were always trying to show the best of themselves in front of other mothers. They were trying to practice their roles perfectly, at home and school where they were assuming to stand strong with their children struggles at school, it was also a concurrence of who going to take the mother of the year so, they feel very strongly about their roles as school mums. Moriarty claims "It's like their religion. They're fundamentalist mothers" (36). However, the home is not always the safest place for children, especially if the parent's relationship is abusive. As a result, mothers ensure to make their children unaware of cruel behaviours at home because a tight-knit family is based on parents' relationship with themselves as a couple and with their children.

II. 2.1 Threats and Intimidation

One of the main features of intimate terrorism is threats and intimidation. It is considered as a nonviolent control. Perry is a wealthy hedge fund manager who affords an upper-class lifestyle to his wife and the two children. He always shares his fancy holidays and daily life pictures with his family on Facebook to portray the perfect family image, " Everyone thinks Celeste and Perry have the ideal marriage" (Moriarty 55). In contrast, he used power to subjugate his partner. In many situations, Perry decided to be violent with his wife as punishment for her inappropriate acts, comments, and jokes she has done spontaneously in front of others "if you ever embarrass me like that again, I will kill you, I kill you. He tightened his grip. How dare you? How dare you?" (Moriarty 265). Threatening to kill his partner just because he felt humiliated his by partner's actions or words, he strikes fear on her and that part of the intimate terrorism.

Celeste made a joke of leaving him if he will ever sign the petition to suspend the little boy from school. He felt humiliated if the world knew that his Facebook posts did not tell the whole story (Moriarty 272). He shows a form of what Johnson calls undermining the will to resist; where the abuser used punishment as a reaction to an actual or imagined resistance and with constant "psychological attacks designed to destroy her self-confidence and convince her that she has no viable alternatives to this relationship." (31). Although Celeste said it as joke but she meant it, she wanted to see Perry's reaction, maybe he would stop abusing her if she threatening him by leaving. Thus, the victim is being abused psychologically.

Battered women put themselves in danger if they decide to end the relationship, especially if she was not independent financially. Celeste was a lawyer before she got married to Perry. Because he has a good work position, he obliged her to stop working so that she will depend on him since he was wealthy enough for a life of leisure. Consequently, she could not

go back to practising law, especially after giving birth to the twin boys. (Moriarty 113) this type of abuse is financial, and it is a critical characteristic in intimate Terrorism that Johnson calls, “the which is the ability to resist by not allowing the partner to work (32). So, she will always depend on his cash, Therefore, if the husband is rich the woman needs to feel financially independent. In any occasion when he has a chance, he underestimates her indirectly that she is wasting his money, Moriarty states, "She also seems to think we have unlimited financial resources, does not earn a cent herself but sure knows how to spend it" (344), he feels superior because his wife is depending on his money. The income is allegedly a well-established risk marker for domestic violence.

Intimate terrorism contains all the forms of violence physical, psychological, economical, and sexual. The effect of psychological abuse is more harmful than any other form. Beverly Engel's book *The Emotionally Abusive Relationship: How to Stop Being Abused and How to Stop Abusing* (2002) states that emotional abuse, insults, insinuations, criticism, and accusations slowly eat away at the victim's self-esteem until they are incapable of judging a situation realistically. They may begin to believe that there is something wrong with them or even fear of losing their minds. Finally, they have become so beaten down emotionally that they blame themselves for the abuse. The attempt to exert general control mostly leads to frequent and extreme violence. Intimate terrorism involves frequent and severe violence when combine with resistance. However, the variability of the violence reminds us that intimate terrorist violence is not necessarily frequent or severe. (Johnson 33)

I. 2.2. The Physiological Measures

The psychologists Neil Jacobson and John Gottman have developed research on one of the major types of intimate terrorists; they created the term "pit bulls" for men whose physiological reactions are designated by powerful emotional disorder, they give a tongue-

lashing to their wives. "The pit bulls are emotionally dependent and are desperate to maintain control over their wives but are not generally violent toward others." (Jacobson & Gottman 36). Moriarty characterized the pit bull men exactly in Perry's character, since he was an innocent, calm, and a very judicious person with others. However, his conversations with his wife are more likely to fight and blame her for not receiving enough attention.

Perry was emotionally needy because he spends most of his time away from his family. He travels a lot around the world, and sometimes he stays for weeks, as he demonstrates, "I've been out for three weeks. I'm away again next Friday. You sick of me already?" (Moriarty 117). Although Celeste raised her children alone and enjoyed her loneliness, the periodic phase with Perry was a deviation; her real-life took place when he was not there. What happened never mattered because he was always about to leave the next day or the following week (69). Her marriage with him stands on some prestigious behaviours in front of others.

The dynamic relationship in Intimate terrorism is based on "the impulsive personalities, an acceptance of violence, and traditional or even hostile attitudes toward women" (Johnson 36). Consequently, intimate terrorism's physiological measures are studying the preparator and the abuser's physiological state during the act of violence and the historical background of their life. In many cases, the preparator had already experienced one of the particular forms of domestic violence. According to Johnson, the term risk markers in the domestic violence literature comes from an analogy to risk factors for the disease of being a perpetrator of intimate terrorism. Many factors help a person predicate the violence. Johnson and Ferraro point out that the term "strongest intergenerational effect" concerned the relationship between childhood violence and intimate terrorism. The vast majority of people who experience family violence may indeed be related to men's adult perpetration of intimate terrorism.

Perry was a bullied child at school, and he had some mental health disorder; Moriarty had developed the character of Perry from a person who used to call himself by his cousin's

name who was defending him at school, "Perry stole a banana paddle pop from the freezer at the fish and chip shop, and when a man grabbed him, he asked, "What's your name?" and Perry replied, "Saxon Banks." (Moriarty 347). Since he was a child, his subconscious maintains and holds some imbecilic memories from his traumatic behaviours to an abusive husband and rapist, whose post-traumatic stress syndrome appears in his late middle age. Moriarty described Perry's rage as "an illness. A mental illness. She saw the way it took hold of him, how he tried his best to resist. When he was in the throes of it, his eyes became red and glassy, as if he were drugged. The things he said didn't even make sense. It wasn't him. The rage wasn't him.?" (121). The anger that Perry holds inside him turns him into another person with aggressive behaviours, it cannot be controlled easily, besides that fact it is considered as a trauma childhood.

II. 2.3. The Verbal Insults

Lian Moriarty assumed to gather most of the women's current issues, and one of the recent general tendencies is beauty standards. Women receive abusive comments often, face body shaming, and get insults for their body shape or beauty. A realistic depiction was shown in *Big Little Lies*, in which mothers were not competing about their roles as mothers but also being the beauty ideal. It's because a woman's entire self-worth rests on her looks, relatively, Jane states, "That's why. It's because we live in a beauty-obsessed society where the most important thing a woman can do is make herself attractive to men." (Moriarty 168), Jane the single mother of Ziggy; Preey's child, was verbally abused, and the abuse escalated into physical violence by her son's father.

The development of Perry's character in the frame story is well written, in which the writer used the foreshadowing method to represent this figure in many different abusive situations. Before five years of the storyline took place, Perry met Jane at night club. Jane was depressed because her boyfriend left to build a life in Paris. Eventually, she met Perry, where

he lied about his real name, and he called himself Saxon, his cousin's name. Perry played the role of the classy, funny, romantic gentleman. Jane was not against the sexual relationship, and she knew that what is happening will lead to this point. However, his action was aggressive; Jane considered it an awful experience, Moriarty mentioned that "Lots of women have had bad sexual experiences. That was mine. The lesson is: Don't go off with strange men you meet in bars" (176). The bad experience that Jane had leads her to take an important decision in her life as never trusting a stranger.

When the perpetrator engages in sexual activities without the woman's approval and using force to get the action done, is considered as sexual abuse. Perry imposes to Jane an aggressive sexual activity which she disagreed on. In an act of disagreement and self-defence, "She grabbed at his hands to try to stop him. She could never bear the thought of not being able to breathe" (Moriarty 176). Although, he did it again. She could hear herself begging him to stop. Perry raped Jane; she indeed accepted the sexual relationship in the first place. Nonetheless, he used to force her to act aggressively, from a romantic man to a monster.

Jane is not a prostitute, she has only one and last night-stand, and it was with Perry. After that nightmare, he did not stop, but he insults her verbally with harsh words. The fact that Jane did not like what he has done to her, she has received a bunch of insulting vocabulary,

You're just a fat ugly little girl, aren't you? With your cheap jewellery and your trashy dress. Your breath is disgusting, by the way. I need to learn some dental hygiene. Jesus. Never had an original thought in your life, have you? Want a tip? You've got to respect yourself a bit more. Lose that weight. Join a gym. Stop the junk food. You'll never be beautiful, but at least you won't be fat (164).

Jane was only nineteen years old, the words "Fat ugly little girl" Traumatized her. She felt violated by those two words "fat and ugly", more than anything else that Perry did to her, it

was those two words that hurt her most. Because the society imposes on r some specific beauty standards to consider as a successful, among them to be pretty, attractive, smart and perfect. whereas a man is accepted in all his adjectives weather positive or negative, fat or ugly, man can still be funny and lovable and successful," continued Jane. "But it's like it's the most shameful thing for a woman to be."(168). Perry's reaction was more aggressive than his action because she did not obey him; he insults her, and the fact that jane was a teenager affects her psychologically. It was not difficult to make her feel low self-esteem. in the adult stage, the mind can easily be attached to negative comments.

At the end, jane got the miracle baby Ziggy, a young single mother who raised a lovely, sweet boy. She never made him feel he was a mistake of a one-night stand. As a mother, she meets his every need. Among those needs is the emotional side; she did not choose maternal suicide as many women do. Cheryl Meyer and Michelle Oberman emphasize that the crime of infanticide "is committed by mothers who cannot parent their child under the circumstances dictated by their unique position in place and time.". Ziggy has been separated from his biological father's actions. The traumatic circumstances did not affect her role as a mother; despite that, she practices it perfectly. Holding Ziggy was by choice, Jane experiences the mother's love at a young age, and she was brave enough to take a risk in raising a child and had the family's support.

II. 3. Violent Resistance

In *Big Little lies*, the theoretical concept of "fighting back" was critical for Moriarty to focus on because women are likely to compete with their intimate terrorists as Celest have done; she did not leave; resist her intimate terrorist partner. Since intimate terrorism is perpetrated primarily by men against their female partners, the violent resistance mainly concerns women's reaction in the intimate terrorism to their partner's abuse. Lenore Walker, a psychologist

working on behalf of victims of domestic violence in her book *The Battered Woman* (1979), argues that, “the victims of intimate terrorism abused into such a condition of submission that they were no longer able to act in their interests; they were victims of learned helplessness” Because researchers and practitioners who deal with domestic violence believed that victims of intimate terrorism did not leave or resist because they were masochistic, walker designed her book on the explanation of the battered women's alleged passivity. The way battered women cope with the abusive situation is by seeking help; "they did not have low self-esteem or serious depression, did not have scores on psychological tests that indicated a feeling of helplessness" (Johnson). The majority of women made extremely proactive efforts to stop the abuse" led them to develop the "survivor theory" that now dominates our understanding of women's reactions to intimate terrorism. Celeste refused to call herself a victim when she had her session with the counsellor, "Of course. I know that. I do not think I deserve it. But I'm not a victim. I hit him back. I throw things at him. So, I'm just as bad as he is. I mean, we're just in a very toxic relationship" (Moriarty 174). she responds to it innovative coping strategies, yet the relationship still violent.

Celeste's reaction is self-protective violence because it might be almost automatic and surfaces nearly as soon as the intimate terrorist partner begins to use physical violence. But in heterosexual relationships, women would mainly find out that responding to violence does not help and may worsen the situation. However, the dynamics of the relationship would be based on power and control of the atmosphere remained abusively over time. Self-defensive is one of the strategies that women used to show their existence and ability to fight back. She often fights back when Perry hits her, yet her reaction is a consequence of the childhood trauma experience. Her brother was abusing her, and she always responds to the act by hitting him back. Moriarty portrays this argument in the passage, "Good God, the fights Celeste had had with her brother. He'd hit her. She'd always hit him back. Maybe if she hadn't grown up with a big brother, if she

hadn't grown up with that tough Aussie tomboy mentality: If a boy hits you, you hit him right back! Perhaps if she'd wept softly and prettily the first time that Perry had hit her, then maybe it wouldn't keep happening." (141). Growing up in a manhood environment helps her associate with the masculine behaviours. As mentioned before, primary men who are abusive experience the situation in their childhood occasionally, women who fight back faced and coped with a position in their childhood.

Significantly, the most important for Celeste is " She wasn't the only one who woke up the next day with bruises. She'd seen them on Perry's body. She was as bad as he was. As sick as he was. "I don't care who started it!"(Moriarty 119). Because she fights back, she identified herself as he is, However, the use of violence was not to control, it was a reaction to Perry's behaviours, she defended herself. The tender purple bruise's view was enjoyable; the tremulous, teary, righteous feeling of being wrong not only for her but also seeing them in her husband's body. Part of her would enjoy it. But it could be worse if these bruises were on her face because she used to hide them by wearing long fancy dresses that Perry brought for her from his trips.

II. 4. Leaving

Johnson points out the argument of women who realize that nothing can do nothing to stop IT. because after fighting back and the resisting, women are hold there between escaping or fighting, "running safely from such relationships can take time. Intimate terrorists entrap their partners using the same tactics that they have used to control them." (53). The process of leaving comes progressively. Victims will attempt to leave the abusive environment several times before finally leaving permanently, which was the case for Celeste. She experiences one of the terrific abusive relationships, yet she has many reasons to stay. The thought of leaving cross her mind overwhelmingly.

Generally, Mothers detain the dysfunctional relationship for keeping their children. Celeste assumes that she packed a bag many times, but she started worrying about the boys; they were still so little, and they need their father (Moriarty175). According to Johnson, if a woman has been subjected to such severe psychological abuse, she believes that her partner can let the court grant her custody of the child if she leaves him (53), gradually makes her plan; it was a mindset, but there was no perfect timing for the implementation. It seemed impossible for her to leave Perry because she could not imagine where she would go, how they would live (Moriarty 205). The escaping was hard on celeste especially she used to the wealthy lifestyle with perry, the fear of building a life alone while she has to take care of two boys, she could have seen that with Jane how much she struggles with Ziggy as a single mother. Perry makes her financially comfortable.

It is worth considering that the victims of an abusive relationship are willing to be a saviour. They have the desire for bits of help. Eventually, the abused love their partners, hoping that they could change the situation by changing themselves or creating excuses. For instance, Perry's wife always made excuses such as the children did not finish their exams or worse, she loves Perry, she was still in love with him, and still had a feeling for him. He was the reason for her happiness and her tears, "She still enjoyed talking with him, watching TV with him, lying in bed with him on cold, rainy mornings. She still wanted him" (Moriarty 119). Above all, Celeste is stuck in the life routine she has. Unconsciously, she romanticized the good moments with her husband, regardless of the toxic love she holds for him.

Family expectations and experiences play a role in women is remaining in an abusive relationship. Moreover, the past experiences with violence distorted the sense of self. Moriarty shed light not only on children affection of domestic violence but also mothers being a victim of abusive householding in their childhood, The maltreatment that Celeste experienced with her; family affected her, in particular, extended to her marriage. Her brother used to hit her:

however, she learned to hit him back. She fightback. whenever her husband operates the physical violence. Likewise, Celeste's father abused her mother emotionally by ignoring her. For Celeste, physical violence would be lesser than emotional abuse. Celeste claims to her counselor that "He didn't ignore her, like the way her father had ignored her mother. That would be the worst. To be ignored. To not be seen" (Moriarty 121)

After Perry finishes his cruel act, Celeste isolates herself in her room to examine her bruises; she studies them deeply, from the colour shades they appear till they disappear. According to Moriarty, Celeste liked to watch the bruises' change, "deepening, darkening and then slowly fading. It was a hobby. An interest of hers. Nice to have an interest. "(142). While the skin is in the process of healing, celeste chooses either to cover them or isolates herself socially. Consequently, she does not practice her life, as usual, so her friends will not recognize her psychological state. According to Arokach, "Loneliness is a painful experience that is commonly not embraced and which has consequences that are detrimental to one's emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being." (327). Isolation is not a solution because it will make the victim observe fear of being alone, and most likely, abused women who cope with loneliness commit suicide.

In general, women in such situations gather the resources gradually to escape safely, sometimes doing this on their own more. They conceal small amounts of money until they have enough to survive on their own, at least for a while. Celeste had done the same while Perry was abusing her; with the help of her counsellor, she prepared a flat to hide during the period immediately after she escapes with her two children (Moriarty 273). In the same context, Johnson claims that women who plan to escape often seeking help from others.

They involve the police and courts for protection, and they join support groups to help them transition to independence and with the emotional trauma produced by the psychological abuse. The process is not a simple one. Catherine Kirkwood

describes it as a "spiral" in which women leave multiple times, only to return, but each time garnering information and resources will eventually allow them to leave for good. (53)

The process of leaving is not easy, women struggle after they escape especially the first period. Some might face trouble with their ex-partner he treater her or might want to take the children from her. Some organization seek help for these victims in order to build a healthy lifestyle, far from any danger they can face, in addition to their psychological state where mostly is damage with traumatic events, all they need is support and helps for other to feel safe.

Leaving was not concerned with Celeste's only economic dependency because she is an educated woman and a lawyer before getting married; her life could be manageable as a single mother. However, it has a vital emotion concern in her life-sex with Perry. Aa narrative by Moriarty, there was a sick and damaged part of Celeste that attached to the maintenance of this and "wanted this shameful, dirty marriage That's how she thought of it" it was an engagement in sort of "strange, disgusting and perverted sexual practice." The anger sex was part of it, regardless, the fight she had with her husband that contains the aggressive behaviours between the two of them; there was always sex afterwards "when it was all over at about five a.m. Fierce, with tears that slid onto each other's faces and tender apologies and the words murmured over and over: Never again, I swear on my life, never again, this has to stop, we have to stop this, we should get help, never again" (Moriarty 68). The emotions of anger undermine sexual motivation, which ends with remorse and shame. In addition to the regret of their action, it also takes a huge part and influence the situation.

Dr Janet Brito, psychologist and certified sex therapist with the Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health, points out that angry sex is frequently used as a physical action to resolve the tension between two people. One of the reasons for anger sex, is it could " serve as an outlet to express aggression" or be "a way to reconnect and repair, after a fight" The lack of

communication can drive to a conflict that leads to a fight and once the person does not express his tension enough so the sexual dynamics would be aggressive. Likewise, Zoe D. Peterson, director of the Kinsey Institute Assault Initiative and an associate professor at Indiana University, claims that it can connect terror, stress, and arousal, which may at least slightly expound the intense desire; that manifests between Celeste and her abusive husband.

When you're anxious, you are in this high physiological state that can be the same as sexual arousal your heart is racing, you're short of breath, those kinds of things, she says. "I can imagine a situation where someone is fearful of their partner, their heart is pounding, they are short of breath, and suddenly their partner switches gears and starts touching them sexually. That person might perceive those signs as sexual arousal. And what we know is, if someone anticipates sexual arousal, then sexual arousal often follows. (Moscatello)

Perry had physically and emotionally abused his wife, and that she enjoyed sex with him, even after a violent flush. Before she met Perry, she had never felt as powerful an attraction to a man, and she knew that would never do again. It was not possible. It was too specific to them. "We are different. We are special. We love each other more. Everything is more intense than normal for us. We have better sex." (Moriarty 138). The two emotions mood, the positive and negative, were present one the anger sex. And having both of these states is something intense. According to McCallum, she describes the makeup sex as a standard action in an abusive relationship, "you go, and you have sex after you have gotten beat up because you want it to be normal again, that seemed to be associated with high arousal." (qtd in Moscatello).

Generally, the dynamic of an abusive relationship had its high and low moments; the perpetrator can be friendly and loving in one moment and violent in another. Peterson comments on it that might not be related the sexual arousal. The sex right after the fight could be an agreement, because they are afraid to say no to the abuser, not to afford the anger or violence again. The partner will be distracted and stop the violence; fear damages the victim's

psychological state during the fight. As a Consequence, if someone has sex with their abusive partner after the violence, it does not signify the violence in any way turned them on.

Celeste has been passionate about the sexual relationship with Perry. Psychologists state that feelings are elevated after an argument due to repression of energy because victims had such an experience. These emotions will get out through the sex, and that is what Celeste confessed of "At least sex with Perry had never been violent, even when it followed violence" (Moriarty 207). McCallum claims that It's crucial to remember that abuse victims like Celeste don't see their relationships in black-and-white terms. Even if their relationships are abusive, they can love them and have desired them. There are frequently years of happy memories to cling to in a long-term relationship. Moscatello claim that "When we sit and talk with survivors, they will bring up the great things about [their partner] before they bring up the poor things,".

II. 5. Situational Couple Violence

Any intimate relationship involved some level of conflict between partners without attempting to control or use power. In most cases, during this situation, one partner wants what the other does not. Therefore, it had little impact on the relationship's stability. However, in particular, these conflicts are the source of the most common type of intimate violence partner; situational couple violence. According to Johnson, the founder of these typologies' states that a conflict between the couples leads to an argument; which evolves into verbal abuse, leading to violence. (57). However, both men and women initiated this type of intimate partner violence, and at least they committed one act of situational couple violence. The evidence shows that men have involved in more frequent violence than women. Their female partners are likely to be physically injured, fear their safety, and experience negative psychological consequences of this violence.

Variability in the violence itself creates a vast difference between situational couple violence and the two other typologies, intimate terrorist and violent resistance. Johnson demonstrates that the women experiencing situational couple violence were happy with their marriages; they enjoy spending family time together, especially if they have children (58). Moriarty depicts the enjoyment of Celeste in her marriage, though she is getting abused by her husband, during therapy sessions with her psychologist, she often defends Perry and his aggressive behaviours. She would say "Perry's temper was only one part of him, it wasn't all of him. He wasn't just a man who hit his wife. He was a man who read bedtime stories to his children and put on funny voices, who spoke kindly to waitresses. Perry wasn't a villain. He was a man who just sometimes behaved very badly.", (207) she pictures him as a good father although he is an abusive husband.

People are often surprised by women who are content in the situational couple violence and are relatively satisfied with violent relationships. However, situational violence involves only one minor incident, a conflict at some point in their relationship that increases rapidly into an argument and then to the level that someone starts the first move of the physical violence, and it ends with immediate apology. For example, Moriarty points out that the conflict between Perry and his wife began with a conversation related to children's decisions. However, Perry has been absent all the time, and whenever they started the conversation, it ends with physical and mental damage, Moriarty state "Perry, this is not a big deal! Don't turn everything into a big deal. Because now it was no longer about the party. Now it was about every other time." (118). The reaction of both is an explosion of feelings' suppression.

Johnson defines situational couple violence as a chronic problem because, in most cases, partners frequently resorting to minor or severe violence. Furthermore, it increases over time; Moriarty substantiates that by illustrating Perry and Celeste's relationship, their conflict always started with an argument till it becomes a fight with psychical injuries. Susi, Celest's

Psychologists state that violent relationships tend to become more violent over time (271). Situational couple violence can be severe because women experiencing situational couple violence pointed out that their husbands had become more violent over time. It is a variable pattern that starts from single minor incidents to chronic to severe violence: some couples have disagreements that regularly escalate into violence (Johnson 58).

Couple conflict frequently starts with communication's issue that affects escalation to violence. According to Johnson, "situational couple violence comes from the interpersonal dynamics of conflict management" (59). In *Big Little Lies*, Moriarty focuses on the conflict that leads to violence more than the controlling part. In addition, The National Family Violence Survey found that among the reasons for situational couple violence is "things about children" (Johnson 61). And Moriarty tackled this partner of violence between Perry and Celeste. They always disagree over the children. Consequently, it always ends with violent physical incidents that affect child-rearing.

II. 6. The Effects of Johnson's Typologies

All the forms of typologies of domestic violence have an impact on parent's lives and their children. Moreover, the effects of long-term violent relationships on the victims are likely to be psychical and psychological. In most cases, during the pattern of intimate partner violence, the victim's reaction changes progressively from the first incident to the escape plan, when it appears to the victim that the violence is not random. The anxiety, loss of self-esteem, depression, and post-traumatic stress are symptoms that show that the victim is experiencing the physical and psychological impact of long or short-term violence. Moriarty portrays the effect of both long and short-term violence, in which Perry was the perpetrator in the two accidents that destroy women's lives.

Sexual abuse often goes along with the physical violence of intimate terrorism. The fact that Perry raped Jane and insulted her verbally, she struggled with a low-esteem. In addition, the forced sex, she had with him affects her psychologically more than physically; she was being destroyed utterly. It was impossible to have a sexual relationship after that night; nothing ever seemed quite the same; as a result, Jane was facing physical trauma and the stress associated with a psychological one. According to Kirkwood dedicates large parts of her research report to issues of self-esteem, reporting that women expressed the view, that their self-esteem was eroded as a result of the continual physical and emotional abuse by their partners. (qtd in Johnson 42). Eventually, these impacts are considered as intimate terrorism effects.

However, in the effects are less than what a victim of intimate terrorism experienced. Rarely women with situational couple violence suffered or got injuries comparing to intimate terrorism when it comes to the physical effects. Psychologically speaking, women experiencing situational couple violence report a high-stress level, same as intimate terrorist victims. For example, Before the violence between Celeste and her husband increase to violent resistance, she suffered from a high level of depression and post-traumatic stress. As a result, she could not practice her social events as taking the children to school. After that, violence became resistance violence, and because violent resistance is the victim's reaction to intimate terrorism, the battered women's movement increased due to this reaction. Nevertheless, some of the women who find themselves in relationships with intimate terrorists feel that there is no way to escape. They turn to the third type of violent resistance, which is murdering their partner, the last level in resisting the situation is killing the violent's partner. Victims tend to loss hope of escaping and building a healthy life so they decide to murder in order to stop the violence to them is the only solution.

II. 7. Conclusion

To sum up, this chapter was an attempt to examine Johnson's Domestic violence typologies on *Big Little Lies*. After applying his theories within their characteristics in the abusive relationship in the novel, it is concluded that the phenomena of domestic violence increase over time. Simultaneously, the type of violence changes. The chronological pattern began with situational couple violence, based on a disagreement between partners that might lead to physical injuries and psychological trauma. Furthermore, situational couple violence could attend to either violence resistance if the victim reacts to physical harm or becomes intimate terrorism. Therefore, the Victims' reactions would identify the situation. Finally, Moriarty shows the major characterization of those typologies and their effect on the mothers and children.

Chapter Three

Childhood Trauma

III. 1. Introduction

Marriage is two people who decide to be united to build a family. The interaction between family members is the basic block on building a family environment. The family should provide a good psychological, emotional, and security to children, which can only be achieved by love and warmth that should be created between partners and their children. Fundamentally, if one of the parents is domineering, manipulative, and controller over the other, it can cause a toxic relationship. Moriarty emphasizes the mothers being abused and how an abusive relationship could affect the children's development. Childhood trauma investigated in the novel starting from parents' childhood, children themselves and eventually the relationship that combine the last two.

III. 2. Parent's Childhood

Parents were children, and the unsolved trauma they experience will affect their later functioning, especially if they decide to be parents themselves. However, not all parents are conscious about what they experience; as a result, the trauma would affect their future lives. Recognition is the most challenging part, according to Yengar et al., "reorganization to the process whereby speakers are actively changing their understanding of past and present experiences and moving toward attachment security." Generally, women who experience domestic violence or other abusive behaviours face mental issues in exploring their attachment classification, attachment outcomes of their children, and the potential effects of reorganization on the child attachment if they ever want to be mothers.

Big Little Lies attempted to picture different kind of family, not only the happy ones but also all kinds of family atmosphere, Jane is the single mother who raises her child Ziggy alone. Madeline, the one her with a baby girl and her husband creating new healthy family vibes with

another woman. And Celeste, the beautiful mother of twin boys and living in an abusive relationship. Furthermore, it was necessary for Moriarty to create an atmosphere of cordiality and family-gathering. However, it seems plausible that this atmosphere may have influenced the general positive attitude towards cultural change.

III. 2.1. The Inner- Child

Lisa Rapaport states that parents who had many traumatic or stressful experiences during childhood might be bound to have children with behavioural issues. In addition, encounters have been connected to what is known as "toxic stress" or mileage on the body that prompts physical and psychological well-being issues that frequently proceed to start with one age then onto the next. Although, for example, Celeste was getting abused by her brother before her husband began to use the violence with her, she was not experiencing it for the first time it happened before. She is walking about within her marital life's experience, acting on her childhood wounds.

The childhood relationships with parents or siblings leave Celeste feeling abandoned, unseen, or unconsidered because when she was getting abused, her mother did not defend her. However, Moriarty indicates the Celeste character as a strong one who passes through a difficult childhood and survives on her own, growing up in a masculine environment helps Celeste to build a strong personality "Maybe if she hadn't grown up with a big brother if she hadn't grown up with that tough Aussie tomboy mentality: If a boy hits you, you hit him" (141). Consequently, Celeste was not aware of the abusive situation she was living in, although she defended herself; as the first consideration, the case was violent. Her reaction reminds the same when Perry beats her. Suppose Celeste recognizes her traumatic experience and deal with it in the psychological healing process. The first time Perry used violence with her, she would have left him instead of keeping up with the long-term violence.

Furthermore, Celeste was not the only mother who struggled with domestic violence during her childhood; Bonnie's wife's the ex-husband of Madeline is victim as well. Moriarty state that "Bonnie's father was violent,"..... "Very violent. I don't think I even know half the stuff he did. Not to Bonnie. To her mum. But Bonnie and her little sister saw it all. They had a very tough childhood one psychiatrist diagnosed post-traumatic stress". She's fine most of the time, but she has terrible nightmares and some difficulties sometimes. On the other hand, Bonnie, known as the wise and calm character compared to the other mothers, spends her time meditating, practising yoga, and building a healthy lifestyle. Surprisingly, she was the one who killed Perry. The scene of Perry beating Celeste in front her eyes foreshadow her history of childhood trauma. The inner child of Bonnie, who could not act when she was a child, just come out in a similar situation where she could not control her anger.

Based on the finding of the researchers who attempt to find the reasons of people with a history of trauma or post-traumatic stress disorder engaging in aggressive and violent behaviours, it states that people who have post-traumatic stress disorder may experience more feelings of anger and, therefore, may have more significant difficulties controlling it. Bonnie does not tend to kill Perry because she was in the process of her treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder. Doctors state that to cope with post-traumatic stress disorder, the healer should learn anger management skills, especially for victims of abusive relationships. Initially, that was what Bonnie was trying to do; the lifestyle she builds is a healing process from her childhood trauma; unfortunately, she could not handle it all. However, she succeeds in being a wonderful mother and a good wife who knows how to love and give affection to her baby daughter.

Bonnie is a victim of domestic violence who suffers from a long-term effect psychological illness effect. Although she is practising her life perfectly and challenging the circumstances, the traumatic experience of her childhood ruins her life in one second; one of

Perry's twins boy bully other kids in school. Once Bonnie sees Perry hit his wife immediately, she asked him, "You've done that before," and she adds, "That's why your son has been hurting little girls" (Moriarty 351). Thus, she links the two events together, and her reaction was excessively quarrelsome. Moriarty explains it in these words in the self-conflict which leads to the murder act,

She sounded like a drinker. A smoker. A fighter. She sounded real. It was strangely exhilarating to hear that guttural, angry voice coming out of Bonnie's mouth. "Because he's seen what you do. Your little boy has seen you do that, hasn't he?" Perry exhaled. "Look, I don't know what you're implying. My children haven't 'seen' anything." "Your children see!" screamed Bonnie. Her face was ugly with rage. We see! She shoved him; both her tiny hands flat on his chest. He fell. (531)

She feels triggered, Perry actions remind her of her father and how she has seen everything, she pictures herself in Celest's kids, Bonnie took the protector role, her reaction is reflecting of her childhood as if she could have done that to her father. Her inner-child wakes. The traumatic feelings were so familiar to her. According to Sigmund Freud, human consciousness divides into three levels of awareness conscious, preconscious, and unconscious; each group is an integral part of the human brain. Essentially, consciousness is the awareness of self and the world around. And in the same context, he came with the concept of a defence mechanism that is used by the nervous system or the subconscious to protect us by any means from a hurtful situation which can be emotional or physical; mostly adapt in childhood to survive specific environments and keep ourselves safe, (qtd in Wolynn 20) unconsciously, Bonnie's mind cope with the trauma she lived in the past. Suddenly, Perry's action transforms Bonnie's mental state to the conscious level, and the defence mechanism works negatively instead of protecting her from the bad memories but reacts violently. the subconscious part in mind works on keeping

all the memories a person had in his childhood the good and bad ones. This side is not fully aware but which influences one's actions and feelings. Most of time the mechanism of the subconscious reacts negatively.

III. 2.2. Parenting Role

Parent has an essential role in building a famial atmosphere; their relationship is interrelated to each other either between mothers and fathers or parent and their children. However, if parents' relationship is damaged, it would affect the children. According to Mars et al., parenting capacity can be defined as the ability to "recognize and meet the infant's changing physical, social and emotional needs in developmentally appropriate ways, and to accept responsibility for this"(63). Therefore, parenting capacity relies on parental, child and situational factors. Optimal parenting demands the ability to consider the child's thoughts, feelings, and intentions to communicate and respond satisfactorily (Fonagy et al. 679-700). In addition, Bradley et al. claim that there are factors that Affect Parenting role such as their historical background, traumatic experience "Evolution and history; biology and ethology; family configuration; formal and informal support systems, community ties, and work; social, educational, legal, medical, and governmental institutions; economic class, designed and natural ecology, and culture—as well as children themselves—each helps to define parenting" (11). The environment where parent grow up affect them in same way their relationship affects their children.

Moriarty's novels always tend to link between domestic violence and the psychological fiction genre. She focuses on the family, more specifically, the parent's relationships and their effects on the child's development. Among her books, *The Husband's Secret*, *Three Wishes* (2003), *What Alice Forgot* (2009), and *Big Little Lie*. In the latter, she sheds light on domestic violence and how it affects children indirectly. Nevertheless, the author indicates the perfect

relationship between the parents and their children. Although fathers abuse their mothers, she emphasizes to show the good treatment of fathers over their children.

The parenting role is concerned with the mother such as the father. However, since women play multiple roles in society and family, the author mentions the concept of working mothers and how they can take their part seriously. Mothers usually have an issue with time management between job and their children Ravnol states that mothers' instructions influence attitudes, abilities, and performance because she spends much more significant time with her children than any other person. In many cases, women tend to work and let their children with the babysitter. For instance, Moriarty characterizes the mother roles in multiple states; single mother, stay-at-home mother, and the hard-working mother. Historically, each child experiences a different situation yet, in the storyline, it mentioned that the working mother does not have the right to raise or take care of a child.

Renata, amebella's mother, is a hard-working mother who spent her entire life working to prove her daughter the best life she can get. According to Moriarty,

"We'll probably never see her. It's hard for the mums working full-time. . Renata is in one of those finance jobs—equities... She's a career woman. She has a full-time nanny. I think she just imported a new one from France. She likes European stuff. Renata doesn't have time to help at the school. She has board meetings to attend. Whenever you talk to her, she's just been to a board meeting, she's on her way back from a board meeting, or she's preparing for a board meeting. (37-38)

Anywise, she makes considerable efforts to balance between her job and giving affection to her only kid. Unfortunately, she fails in managing between the two at the same time. Working a full-time mother hardly can balance between their children and their jobs.

One of the indirect conflict mothers' faces is who gains more money than other and in which way each mother spends her money? Moriarty describes the comparison situation by "there was always the implication that Renata was the smart one, the one who needed more mental stimulation because she had a career while Madeline had a job" (49). The working mother prefers to sacrifice a part of their life which; is mothering, so they provide their children with financial comfortable and safe life. Ravnbol expresses the idea of a working mother as heavy effortful for them to choose between working or staying home with the children.

While Some mothers put all their efforts into building their careers, as seen in Renata's case, and others wait until their children become school ages. Some women had a choice of employment, Unlike Jane, who is forced to work to feed her child because she is a single mother. As a mother, she should prioritize their dreams. "This was not the career she'd dreamed of as an ambitious seventeen-year-old, but now it was hard to remember ever feeling innocent and audacious enough to dream of a certain type of life as if you got to choose how things turned out." (Moriarty 109). For instance, Jane decided to work from home to spend quality time with Ziggy to show genuine love and build an authentic relationship. Generally, mothers look forward to a job to rear their children when they do not have financial support from the fathers or the partners. There is a positive impact of mother's employment on the children, especially for economic reasons; the access of mothers to income-generating opportunities impacts positively on the well-being of the children.

Celeste is the only mother who is financially comfortable. She is one of the richest mothers who sponsor kids of emerging countries without thinking twice about it. She is the mother who is getting abused by her wealthy husband, wasting his money was the only satisfaction, pride, and pleasure after a fight. According to Moriarty, "Give more money to charity! Give until it hurts." (142). She thinks that over spending Perry's money will hurt him since he one who works hard for that money. However, she admits that one of the reasons she

could not work is the fear of practising the mothering role incompletely. Besides, Perry is an affluent man who does not accept his wife to work because he knows if Celeste is independent financially, she would leave him.

Moriarty tackled the concept of parenting in all aspects, noting the effect of working mothers on child development and the working father and how the father's frequent absence affects his children. In this case, the author provides the reader with all the types of a family atmosphere. Perry was busy with his job. He is often absent; while Celeste builds her family vibes alone with her two children; Perry was the invisible father. However, he had a good relationship with his kids; he treats them very well comparing to their mother, who had been abused.

III. 3. Implementing Childhood

As human beings, one of the essential needs in our lives is affection and love. Naturally, any child has a belonging feeling to his family, more precisely his mother. According to Dalia Lama in his book *The Importance of Love and Affection* (2011), he states that "the child possesses a natural feeling of intimacy with its mother, it can recognize her voice from the start.". However, as much as the children in need of his mother, the father's presence is essential; consequently, the children would be raised in a consistent, integrated family. Once the child is born, he enters into new surroundings in which the parents are the only tool of survival and interaction with the world.

However, if the child faces or experiences any abuse directly or indirectly, it would affect his development as an individual and a member of society. In *Big Little Lies*, the author sheds light not only on the mothers being abused and rape but also in which way that can impact their children in the process of development, mentally, physically, and psychologically because mothers and children have a mutual love for one another. The child is born and is growed up

surrounded by a particular kind of love that exists only between the mother and the child; as a result, this will create the beginnings of a good and happy life for the children.

Otherwise, if the environment is unjust and constitute would be an obstacle to the development of the children, for example, an abusive relationship would affect the children indirectly, although they are not the ones who are getting abused. Consequently, they will suffer from childhood trauma, which will turn to mental illnesses because the family has a vital role in shaping self-concept and self-complexity development. Moriarty highlighted childhood trauma and the consequences of an abusive relationship. Max and Josh Perry's twine, Amebella; Renata's daughter, Ziggy; Jane's son, Abigail; Madeline's older daughter. Those children all suffer from traumatic experiences with their parents.

III. 3.1. Child Development

Parents play a vital role not only in the genetic system of their children but also in the emotional, moral, and social development. The parental influence on development is most notable in the areas of psychosocial development, having a parent figure who cannot regulate their emotions and behaviours would lead to a violent relationship. In *Big Little Lies*, the storyline in the novel jumps back six months before the terrible accident happens. During this period, many events took place such as domestic violence and bullying between children, the author related the event intensely. To portray the children's' position in a domestic environment, Memmott claim that, "The family problems Moriarty unwraps are familiar even as we shake our heads, convinced that the terrible goings-on — domestic violence and bullying — could never happen to us." The author tends to tackle familiar topics that could happen to anyone.

The book started with the prologue passage "Pirriwee Public School . . . where we live and learn by the sea! Pirriwee Public is a BULLY-FREE ZONE! We do not bully. We do not

accept being bullied. We never keep bullying a secret. We dare to speak up if we see our friends bullied. We say NO to bullies! (Moriarty10), the author considers the children who grow up in toxic or abusive relationships as a victim who would abuse other children at school. Consensually, each child reacts and behaves differently. Some use violence. Some had been silent while they were being bullied. In other words, each child is influenced and has an impact differently. Generally, children at young age get too attached to their parents' behaviours as a result they will imitate them.

III. 3.2. The Abusive Environment

The nonlinear dynamics theory, or as Dell calls it, the chaos/ complexity theory, as psychologists call it, "the family's function system", it tackles the outcome of domestic violence and how it could leave long-term print in child's development (1-20). In other words, "Family therapists were those who found that it was often impossible to change the behaviour of a troubled child without changing the family system as a whole" (qtd in Sallay 2). The child's interaction in social life is based on the types of relationships between his parent. A study made by Baumrind that concerns "Parenting Typologies to Children's Behaviour" noted that children of healthy family vibes, mostly related to authoritative parents, rarely suffer from mental issues; they are independent, responsible, and aware of their emotions than the others who have toxic relationships. As a result, parenting style is essential in the children's outcome socially and individually. In a related context, the child development progressively processes quantitative transformation of personality and character in the individual behaviours, which involves improvement and maturity.

The parenting outcomes usually emphasized the positive and negative impact on the children because childhood is a significant period of human life. Moriarty portrays a childhood period in which the child is immature and continuously developing a postnatal human organism

whose life depends significantly on the environmental parent. Furthermore, children generally tend to grow up to be much like their parents both in character and appearance. Perry's child was abusive, and he used to bully other children at school. According to Hewlett, parental behaviours are an intimate pattern that should contain frequent caregiving and strong attachments. It is also distant in the sense of disciplinarians and providers, and multiple taskers in sharing responsibility. He also points those fathers adapt to contextual influences, especially environmental natural, social, and economic factors on their children's lifespan. (413- 434)

Max's behaviour is an imitation act from his violent father, who beats his mother, Perry, and Celeste were unaware of their children. However, at school, all mothers accuse Ziggy because he is a single mother-child compared to Max and Josh, who are twine of one of the richest men in the town. Pirriwee Public School's Parents decide to sign a petition for Ziggy. It was not just kindergarten parents signing it, but also, they were getting parents in other years to sign it, parents who didn't even know Ziggy (Moriarty 244). Ziggy was a victim of behaviours that he did not do it. Although, parents do not know that Ziggy is Perry's son, they prejudice him just because he is son of a single mother.

Furthermore, Jane is afraid that her son would have inherited the violent part from his father. It was confirmed that Perry is a stranger man, he was a man of one-night stand. However, what she had in one night was enough to know him closure "he'd inherited some evil secret tendency for violence from his biological father" (Moriarty 223). Scientists study the Deoxy Ribonucleic Acid (DNA) of the biological father and how that influence their genetic development in the children which based on the gene it received from parents more in the physical appearance, body shape, eye and hair colour, complexion, and temperament, as well as several other characteristics will arise based on its inherited genes. The author mentions the different factors that influenced the child's development, such as the environment and family system.

Ziggy and Max have the same biological father, yet they grow up in different environments. Although Jane is a single mother, she ensures that the raising process of her son is healthy, unlike his biological father. At the same time, Ziggy is called the miracle child. Jane states that she does not regret it, Because Ziggy is her miracle baby. However, sometimes she feels as she can see something in his eyes that reminds her of his father. What if the beautiful Ziggy has a secret cruel streak? What if her son does that to a girl one day? (Moriarty 170) these questions were rising in her head. As a result, she provides her son with good family vibes while taking the role of both the mother and the father. Perry was the invisible father in Ziggy's life and that given him probably a peaceful life.

Although Jane had a different relationship with her son than other parents, she was the whole mother kind. It can be considered the ideal type of mother, which her children appreciate and love too much. She is the sort of woman who is balanced and full of love. with these moms encouraging independence and individuality, their kids grow up with a positive self-image, feel loved and confident. Jane maintains to support her son even when she suspects him for something he did not do. Thought she treated him very well, while she tried to fix the issue bay let him visiting a psychologist to study his behaviours. The author shows the strong connection between Ziggy and Jane so that her son would not feel his father absence "Ziggy wasn't the result of nice, normal, loving sex. He was the result of the shameful actions of a young, silly, fat, ugly" (195). Although jane lived a terrible experience with her son's father, she never felt that Ziggy is a mistake of sexual violence.

Each family has its own atmosphere; Moriarty sheds light on a multiple family environment where children grow up depending on parents' relationship. Not every family has it though; some signs identify it, Moriarty focuses on the children being abusive to their classmate at school, in addition to how this has lifespan effect on the children. They are now

considered one of the leading causes of many mental illnesses, including depression and anxiety, and the trauma that could develop into other disorders in the next stage of life.

III. 4. Childhood Trauma

Any violent situation has a typical response which is a psychological trauma. There are symptoms of traumatized people, especially if the victim is young. The historical event affects the social and psychological state; Herman claims that "The knowledge of horrible events periodically intrudes into public awareness but is rarely retained for long. Denial, repression, and dissociation operate on a social as well as an individual level.". The violent experience led to a traumatic psychological outcome that maintains in the sub-consciousness; consequently, it would be only recognized when the person remembers his rough time and will be aware of them to forward to the recovery process.

In *Big Little Lies*, the author portrays the traumatic childhood on parents' lives and their children. Starting from Perry, the abusive husband, behaviours are reflected on his sons where he begins to bully his classmate as an imitation act to his father behaviours. Therefore, the traumatic experience in the life corrodes the structure deforms the personality formed. Moreover, if the child notices that his mother is abused, her wound would impact his psychological state. Celeste used to be beaten not in front of her children, but they have seen her with bruises, and they always hear the voice loudly. Psychologists state that the mother's wound is the unconscious pain, shame, plus wounding that is passed from mother to child, in other words, from generation to generation. Mothers have the most significant impact on the children coping mechanisms, core beliefs, and self-worth. Their unresolved trauma transformed to their children.

Perry and Celeste both experience violence in their childhood. However, they were not aware of its impact in the future. The parents' wound comes from hundreds of years of

conditioning that must be performed. To find a way to preserve a sense of trust in other people, so that, their children will not face the same conditions. Children who do not have a supportive system they are more highly concerned with the cycle of violence.

Sigmund Freud identifies the pattern called "Repetition compulsion". The traumatic re-enactment. It is the effort of the unconscious to replay what's unresolved. According to Wolynn, he simplifies Freud's theory in his book *It Didn't Start with You: How Inherited Family Trauma Shaped Who We Are and How to End the Cycle* (2017) by saying "the unconscious drive to relive past events could be one of the mechanisms at work when families repeat unresolved traumas in future generations" (20). The history of a child's family began before he was born, and what remains unconscious remains in people's lives as destiny.

Max's behaviours are the same as his father's, because Perry could not be healed from the traumatic events he experiences in his childhood. On the other hand, Celeste is being abused when she was little by her older brother; she keeps the event in her unconscious. When Perry started to use violence with her, she reacted in the same manner when she was a little; she resisted, as mentioned before; both Perry and Celeste are not aware of their childhood trauma, therefore they inherit it to their children. People likely keep reproducing the unconscious behaviours until it brings them into the state of recognition. Psychotherapy starting to look beyond the traumas of the individual to include traumatic experiences in the family background and social history as a part of the whole picture. If Ziggy grows up in the same abusive endearments as his half-brother Max and Joash, he would probably be violent.

Unfortunately, when parent themselves are not aware of their traumas, it is difficult for them to understand their children's action. when Jane visits the Psychologist for Ziggy, the first question was, "So there is nothing out of the ordinary in Ziggy's past, his home life, his background, that you think we should know, that might be relevant?" Jane wants to make sure that her son is not like his father. As a result, "trauma has the power to reach out from the past

and claim new victims writes addiction psychiatrist Dr David Sack in Psychology Today" (qtd in Wolynn 34). Children of a parent struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder can develop their PTSD, called secondary post trauma stress disorder.

III. 4.1 The Child as a Victim

Children's personality includes emotional, moral, and social aspects, which depend on the parental role. Emotional and behavioural control comes on the parent responsibility. Children are often the victims of many horrible events, such as living in an abusive environment or being a victim of bullying or abandonment; these experiences can negatively affect their health and well-being. However, understanding childhood trauma or identifying their emotional state depends on observation; watching the children's behaviours and reactions because many children expose their anger, anxiety, fear, and poor self-esteem by aggressive action, while others chose the silence method, which is more complex and dangerous.

In *Big Little Lies*, the author highlights many events in the parents as victims of domestic violence and their children experiencing a similar pattern. For instance, Bonnie, the character who killed Perry, had post trauma stress disorder in her childhood. As a result, when she has seen Perry abusing Celeste in front of her, she reacted violently and pushed him. Moreover, when she learned that Perry's son had behaved the same way, she was afraid that her daughter would experience and suffer the same struggles because Bonnie's father was an abusive man. Bonnie teaches her daughter how to deal with it with some methods, Moriarty states that "I found out tonight that my son Max has been bullying some of the little girls in his class. I think he might have pushed your daughter on the stairs, um, more than once It's all right," said Bonnie calmly. "Skye told me about it. We discussed some strategies for what to do if this sort of thing happens again." (338) Since Bonnie was aware of her emotional state and she is in the process of recovery. She is wise to transact with it to pass the survivor state. Landenberger identified

"recovery as gaining a new balance and meaning in one's life after the violence has ended; however, what helps individuals to achieve this state is not fully illuminated." (qtd in Anderson et al. 2).

The process of healing takes time, every person reacts differently, but people are often resilient, especially children. For many children, the physical and emotional reactions to trauma typically decrease over time. However, other children need different kinds of support to heal from trauma. Some will even deal with the effects of childhood trauma for their whole lives. The children in an abusive environment are faced with challenging tasks of adaptation. It is hard for them to adapt to the toxic family environment. Technically the child would struggle in the social settings as well. The starting point is school. When parents blame Ziggy for violent actions, he did not do it. They decide not to allow their children to play with him, which leads to abandonment "poor little Ziggy and parents saying their kids couldn't play with him" (337). Neglect is a traumatic pattern for a kid of five years old to experience; the fact that children spend most of their time in school, socially they interact with each other. As a result of this situation, children tend to be isolated. According to Leberg, the child as a victim chooses to separate himself from others because the impact has a profound effect on his mental health and how everyone in the family gets along (25).

III. 4.2 Recovery from Trauma

Mothers and children can both be able to recover from domestic violence and the traumatic experience they face. However, the healing process takes time, as it can be for the whole life. Moving from an abusive relationship and working toward recovery took an enormous amount of personal strength which must be supported spiritually and socially. Anderson et al. claim that Spirituality and corresponding religious beliefs played an important role in participants' recovery by giving them the strength to prevail, uncovering the benefits of

their suffering, and giving their lives a purpose. In addition, until they were strong enough to support themselves, participants found it necessary to seek and accept informal and formal support from others. These women identified how, in rebuilding their lives, they experienced growth in their self-awareness, faith, and interpersonal relationships (Wolynn 10)

The healing methods needed an act of courage which be rise above their suffering. The importance of a spiritual connection is to help victims recognize their trauma and life meaning in a different light rather than thinking of the traumatized past. As a result, growing the spiritual side makes them appreciate what they had learned from their struggles, such as increased compassion, wisdom, and strength. Moreover, some women rely on religious communities that offered them emotional comfort, a sense of belonging and security. One of the supportive systems victims need to recover is social support. Improving support systems and preparing resources were central to shareholders' resilience and ultimately to their recovery from domestic violence trauma because traumas could be part of the family inheritance, which is needed first hand, seeking help from psychologists and professionals.

In the end, the author is unsure of introducing to the readers the courage Celeste has in standing in front of battlers, women and men who struggle and go through the same experience. For the first time, Celeste's voice is loud and clear in narrating the combat events not only with Perry but also with herself because she takes time to stand and call other women not to feel shameful, guilty or whatever they are feeling, she started her speech by "This can happen to anyone." (Moriarty 382) and it is the last sentence on the book. The author tries to show that the end is of a terrible phase can be the start of fresh new step. Survivors' women' perceptions of what happened to them in the aftermath of traumatic events. Those victims need assists in understanding how resilience can arise from such chaos and destruction phase to extreme number of forces. among women who have undergone domestic violence and adds to literature

focused on understanding the process of resilience that may considerably serve practitioners, advocates. (Anderson et al. 118)

III. 5. Conclusion

Parents influence their children emotionally, psychologically, and physically. If parents had traumatic experiences in their childhood stage and did not go through the recovery process, there is highly possibility that their children would go through the same experience. The abusive environment is one of the toxic places a child grows up in. because a child's consciousness functions according to the dynamic system. One of the essential themes Moriarty focuses on is the childhood trauma on the parent's historical events and how it impacts their parental role. She demonstrates in which way children become Spitting images of their parents' behaviours unconsciously. "Healing from trauma is akin to creating a poem. Both require the right timing, the right words, and the right image" (Wolynn 17) With the emergence of social awareness about this phenomenon, victims can heal and rebuild their lives after the horrible experiences they have been through by seeking help from psychological centres to determine their rightful place.

General Conclusion

Domestic violence is identified as one of the serious social phenomena facing the whole world, and with the development of family laws, it is considered as a crime. People are not safe in their homes because they are getting menaced by one of their family members. Generally, the majority of victims are women. One of the authors who tackled domestic violence as a main theme in her novels is Lian Moriarty. In 2014, she published the best New York selling book entitled by *Big Little Lies*.

As discussed in the previous chapters, among the well-known postmodern theories of domestic violence is “Johnson theory” Moriarty tends to mentioned most of the characteristic of the typologies of domestic violence according to Johnson. The main characters were being abused differently, therefore; they were reacting differently. The violence always starts with an argument between two partners and mostly does not have any intense to become violent over each other; as a consequence, it called situational couple violence. However, in some cases, the arguments turn to a violent behaviour, one partner want to control and use power to make his /her words work.

Celeste the most traumatized woman, suffer from a domestic violence; she was being abused by her wealthy husband physically, psychologically and financially. However, Celeste was strong enough to defend herself whenever Perry used violence over her, Perry’s abusive actions were meant to control and maintain power over his partner, while Celeste’s reactions are considered as violent resistance ‘according to Johnson Theory where the partner use violence in way of defending themselves.

The level of violence increases over time, it started by an argument between both partners, and that what it called situational couple violence, in long-term the argument becomes a fight and aggressive behaviours in some extent and the reaction of the victims precise the type of the violence that is used above them. If they fight back, it considers as a violent resistance and if the victims do not react it a part of what it called intimate terrorism. Perry was not only

a violent husband, but also a rapist who raped a young girl named Jane, she was only nineteen old, as a result of perry action, jane got pregnant from the man who raped her. It was hard for Jane to raise a child as a single mother on society where your kids treated according to their parents' statue.

Michael Johnson's theory deals with different the types of the violence depending on the victims' reactions, he tackled all the situational violence that a person could pass through Moriarty highlights the abusive environment in her novel where she illustrates the main characteristics of Johnson typologies and their impacts on mothers like Jane and Celeste, and their children.

Because parents have a huge impact on the children's development, the psychological state of the children would depend on their parents' relationship. Moriarty focuses on the child as a victim of an abusive atmosphere. Parents were themselves in early in a stage of their lives, therefore, if one of them had a traumatic experience in his/her childhood and did not recover from it, it is highly possible that their children would face the same experiences. Moriarty sheds the light on the parents as a child and their traumatic events in addition to the children themselves.

The conscious mind plays an important role in the children's development, the events they go through—instilled—the unconscious mind, there will appear over time negatively especially if they were traumatic. Because the mind functions according to the dynamic system of the parents' relationship, the only solution to stop the circle violence is to go through the healing process in order to rebuild a healthy lifestyle after all the traumatic experiences. According to Wolynn “healing becomes fully integrated so that the wounds of previous generations can finally be released.” (26) the healing will help the victims to understand their own feelings and be aware of them.

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