

Escapism in Eugene O'Neill's Long day's Journey into Night

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ABSTRACT

Long day's Journey into Night (Pulitzer Prize 1957) was Eugene O'Neill's greatest autobiographical play in which he skillfully conveys through the members of his family a painful realistic portrait that reveals the strained familial relationships he experienced with his family during his youth. The play represents a day in the life of the Tyrones, which begins at 8:30 in the morning on James Tyrone's (the father) farm in August 1912 and ends in the last hours of the same day. It is a metaphorical, psychological, gradual, desperate journey that all the Tyrones take into the night (towards their personal problems) to explore the uttermost depth of familial relationship through their mutual accusations and blaming each other until they are separated by the darkness of their problems which isolate them from each other urging them to escape from their miserable and tragic reality by taking drugs, drinking and prostitutes. Escapism is one of the main themes of the play that is seen and justified by the depression, hostility and tension experienced by the four characters of the Tyrones family. They are unable to face their life's problems and they only get blame and mutual accusations from each other without the expected family attention and sympathy among them. The paper is an attempt to investigate the different motivations of the Tyrones for escaping from their bitter reality and the means used to do so.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Published March 11th 2024



KEYWORDS

Alcoholism; Escapism; Drug addiction; Past; Tyrones.

ARTICLE LICENCE

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1. Introduction

O'Neill's Long day's Journey into Night is a psychological journey for each member of the Tyrone's to explore the depth of human feelings and specifically family relationships. The play shows O'Neill's skill in employing his personal experience through his autobiography in this play to add an actual realistic touch to the family problems that occur in all families. Moreover, O'Neill's reliance on his autobiography in demonstrating family problems added a lot of credibility in analyzing the behaviors of members of the Tyrone family and each individual's motives for such actions. In fact it is a play of inaction because it dramatizes psychological action to a superlative degree (Carpenter, 1964). The play demonstrates the life of the Tyrone family during a period of thirty- five years of marriage, and the problems and the obstacles that the couple faced as well as the problems of their two young sons Jamie and Edmund during this period. The play penetrates the depths of the isolation that exists in family relationships, which is caused by the lack of communication between individuals and the lack of mutual interest between members of the same family (Begum, 2020; Faiz et al., 2023).

Mr. Tyrone, the famous actor, makes a huge sacrifice of his exceptional acting talent, which could have qualified him to be one of the country's greatest actors if he had paid attention to choose his roles in a way that suits his great talent. Instead, he sacrificed his exceptional talent to play the same character over successive years, only to end up being molded to play this character only, thus losing his place among the most talented actors in America. In fact, Mr. Tyrone made this huge sacrifice based on his being the father and sole breadwinner for his family to ensure the continued existence of a sufficient monthly income for his family, even though he did not declare this sacrifice to his family members, who did not appreciate the magnitude of his sacrifice or thank him for it. On the contrary, they blamed him for his interest in his work, accusing him of stinginess.

The same thing applies to Mrs. Tyrone (Mary), who preferred to carry out her husband's orders without discussion and accompanied him on his artistic tours at the expense of her interest in her children, which led to the loss

of one of her children and the weakening of the health of the other, placing the blame on her husband instead of taking responsibility and being frank with him about the impossibility of accompanying him due to her children's need for her. So it is about a family with what it contains of an interconnected series of feelings and problems that exist in all families which affect the areas of sympathy and mutual antagonism shared by all families, which are subject to defense mechanisms and mutual accusations (Tiusanen, 1968; Rahman, 2018; Alaaldin & Abdulsalam, 2021). Consequently O'Neill emphasizes the power of the past by setting the entire play in the past to show the impact of past accumulations on the family relationships, putting them in a complete isolation, as they live far from the city and the society in their fogbound house near the sea (Abbotson, 2005; Suma et al., 2023).

2. Methodology

The present paper adheres to the formatting guidelines outlined by the American Psychological Association (APA) for both the content and the organization of references. The utilization of the APA writing style ensures consistency and clarity throughout the paper. The primary focus of this research lies in adopting a thematic approach, employing analytical elucidations, and conducting a comprehensive review of the theme of "Escapism" in Eugene O'Neill's play, "Long Day's Journey into Night." The analysis is intricately woven with the application of psychoanalytic theory, offering a deeper understanding of the characters and their psychological motivations.

In exploring the theme of "Escapism," the paper delves into Eugene O'Neill's masterful work, "Long Day's Journey into Night." The thematic approach is employed to dissect the various facets of escapism presented in the play. Through analytical clarifications, the paper aims to unravel the psychological intricacies of the characters and their coping mechanisms, showcasing the profound impact of escapism on their lives. By anchoring the analysis in psychoanalytic theory, the paper seeks to provide a nuanced perspective that goes beyond surface-level observations, shedding light on the underlying motivations and conflicts within the characters.

Furthermore, the paper extends its reliance on the APA writing style to the arrangement of references, ensuring a meticulous and organized presentation of the scholarly sources consulted. This adherence to a recognized formatting style not only enhances the paper's professionalism but also facilitates readers in navigating the content seamlessly. Overall, the research takes a multi-dimensional approach, intertwining the APA guidelines, thematic analysis, and psychoanalytic theory to offer a comprehensive exploration of escapism in Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night."

3. Result and Discussion

The play opens with the Tyrone family having just finished the breakfast returning to the living room where the play takes place. Mary Tyrone and her husband James enter together the living room as he "gives her a playful hug" (1,1,6). Mary is "fifty-four; about medium height. She still has a young graceful figure.... Her face.... It must once have been extremely pretty and is still striking. It does not match her healthy figure but is thin and pale with the bone structure prominent" (1,1,3). There are two distinguished things about her that cannot be ignored, the first is her "thick pure white hair" and the other is "her extreme nervousness. Her hands are never still.... rheumatism has knotted the joints and wrapped the fingers so that now they have an ugly crippled look." (1,1,4) Moreover "one avoids looking at them, the more so because one is conscious she is sensitive about their appearance and humiliated by her inability to control the nervous which draws attention to them" (1,1,4).

Obviously Mary's tired appearance indicates that she suffers from health problem, and her husband and two sons, James and Edmund are very concerned about her health. In fact they are concerned about her health condition, but they are very careful in dealing with her because of her excessive sensitivity. Therefore they try to support her and take care of her without hurting her feelings by referring to her critical health condition. In fact Mary returns home after spending several weeks in a sanitarium recovering from drug addiction and her three Tyrone men fully believe that she is able to overcome the temptation of the drug this time. But the painful fact is that Mary's addiction to drug is her only way to escape from her bitter reality and life problems that she failed to solve or overcome. Moreover taking drugs became the only outlet for her to forget her worries and life problems, which enabled her to continue living. Moreover it cost her dearly because drug addiction negatively affected not only her health and life but the lives of all members of her family as well. Mary's deteriorating health due to drug addiction has become the biggest concern for her family members who are trying to protect her and prevent her from further harming her health without hurting her feelings.

Obviously Mary always escapes from the present reality and feels deeply nostalgic for the past when she was a beautiful, happy, spoiled, young woman living with a loving family and having big dreams. She tells Cathleen that she

"was brought up in a respectable home and educated in the best convent in the Middle West.... I was a very pious girl. I even dreamed of becoming a nun." (3,155). She explains to Cathleen that she "had two dreams. To be a nun, that was the more beautiful one. To become a concert pianist that was the other." (3, 157) Moreover:

Data 1

Mother Elizabeth and my music teacher both said I had more talent than any student they remembered. My father paid for special lessons. He spoiled me. He would do anything, I asked. He would have sent me to Europe to study after I graduated from the Convent. I might have gone - if I hadn't fallen in love with Mr. Tyrone. Or I might have become a nun. (3,155)

In fact Mary long's deeply for her happy past where her big dreams were close to be achieved, and she had a warm home and a loving family with deep family relationships and ties full of love and tenderness, unlike what she got after her marriage to Mr. Tyrone. She recalls her first meeting with Mr. Tyrone who charmed her to the extent of making her give up one of her two great dreams, of becoming a nun, only to become his wife, as she tells Cathleen that: "I fell in love right then, so did he told me afterwards. I forgot all about becoming a nun or a concert pianist. All I wanted was to be his wife." (3,161). Furthermore she tells Cathleen that she:

Data 2

Haven't touched a piano in so many years. I couldn't play with such crippled fingers, even if I wanted to... See, Cathleen, how ugly they are! So maimed and crippled! You would think they'd been through some horrible accident! (3,160)

Accordingly she accuses her husband of being the reason of her gradual abandonment of her dreams. Moreover she accuses him of being the reason of her addiction to drugs and alcohol because of his excessive selfishness and his carelessness about her and their children and his continuous disappointment of them due to his extreme miserliness which caused misery and the sense of insecurity for all the members of his family.

Mary was a spoiled girl who is very happy with her life and is able to achieve her goals easily. She thought that when she met her charming prince, her life would be happier with his presence with her, and that he would treat her like a princess showering her with his love, attention and tenderness, and that she would live with him as the heroine of one of the happy fairy tales, but what happened was complete opposite of that.

Mary married Mr. Tyrone the famous theatrical actor and her prince charming, for whose love she gave up her most beautiful dreams believing that he would compensate her for what she sacrificed for him with a big, warm house giving her handsome children like him to enjoy family happiness and security. But he made her continue to sacrifice for his personal happiness, seeking wealth and fame indifferent to the price Mary pays to please him, even if it is at the expenses of her happiness and the happiness and safety of their children. Mr. Tyrone selfishly made his wife Mary join him on his constant tours to present his plays, until she spent her life traveling from hotel to hotel, giving birth to her children in filthy public hotels at the hands of ignorant doctors. He ignores completely her need to settle down in a house that brings her together with her children and husband, where everyone feels familial warmth, safety and happiness. Until the disaster occurred when she suffered from severe pain at the birth of her second son, Edmund, which the quack could not diagnose, and he could only treat it with morphine which the quack prescribed to her as an analgesic but she ended up addicted to it (Cargill, 1961). Mary blames her husband saying:

Data 3

Even traveling with you season after season, with week after week of one-night stand, in trains without Pullmans, in dirty rooms of filthy hotels, eating bad food, bearing children in hotel rooms, I still kept healthy. But bearing Edmund was the last straw. I was so sick afterwards, and that ignorant quack of a cheap hotel doctor- All he knew was I was in pain. It was easy for him to stop the pain. (2,2,129)

In fact Tyrone loves his wife in his own way. He does not listen to her and does not care about her suffering. Therefore, by abandoning her at the time of her need for him (when she was in pain due to childbirth needing his help) he betrayed her by hiring a cheap doctor who was the reason for her drug addiction later, abandoning his duties and responsibilities towards her as a husband (Gassner, 1969).

Furthermore her youngest son, Edmund, confronts his father accusing him of being the reason for his mother's addiction to drugs because he did not call for a skilled doctor to treat her because of extreme stinginess which prevent him from establishing a safe house in which she settles with her children instead of her constant traveling and alienation which led her to addiction. He scolds his father saying:

Data 4

You've never given her anything that would help her to stay off it! [drug addiction] No home except this summer dump in a place she hate and you've refused even to spend money to make this look decent, while you keep buying more property, and playing sucker for every con man with a gold mine, or a silver mine, or any kind of get-rich-quick swindle! You've dragged her around on the road, season after season, on one-night stands with no one she could talk to, waiting night after night in dirty hotel rooms for you to come back with a bun on after the the bars closed! Christ is it any wonder she didn't want to be cured. (4,223)

Edmund escalates the severity of his accusations against his father and directly accuses him of being the only reason for the collapse of his mother's health and her addiction to drugs because of his extreme parsimony saying:

Data 5

I know who is! You are! Your damned stinginess! If you'd spent money for decent doctor when she was so sick after I was born, she'd never have known morphine existed! Instead you put her in the hands of a hotel quack who wouldn't admit his ignorance and look the easiest way out, not giving a damn what happened to her after wards! All because his fee was cheap! Another one of your bargains!... I'm saying no matter how you excuse yourself you know damned well your stinginess is to be blame. (4,220)

Accordingly the miserable life that Tyrone presented to his wife and children, and his continuous reflectance of them and his responsibilities towards them, in addition to his deliberate deprivation of his wife from the enjoyment of staying with their children and taking care of them like any mother who is happy with stable and safe home. Moreover he made her accompany him constantly on his tours, presenting his plays, and her constant and growing concern for her children who are left under the care of their grandparents which increases her suffering consequently the bitterness of her reality which exceeds her ability to bear, making the only escape for her is her addiction to drugs. Thus she is "too frightened of life to be able to give up the drug habit!" (Gassner, 1965).

In fact Mary's drug addiction is not the only thing she considers her husband the only responsible for it, but she accuses him of being the reason of the death of her son Jamie when he was two years old. She blames her husband saying:

Data 6

If I hadn't left him [Jamie] with my mother to join you on the road, because you wrote telling me you missed me and were so lonely, Jamie would never have been allowed, when he still had measles, to go in the baby's room. (2,2,130)

Thus Mary's loss of her son Jamie at an early age and in such a tragic way doubles her tragedies and adds an additional reason to justify her escapement from her painful reality. Consequently she cannot forget the past, as she escapes from her miserable reality with her constant longing to the past, which represents her paradise that she lost in her miserable present. Accordingly she "suffers a psychological death by finally withdrawing from the painful reality of life, and this withdrawal is symbolized by the fog and past" (Chabrowe, 1976).

Data 7

The isolated summer house of the Tyrone is located near the sea, so it is often covered in fog early in the early morning and at sunset, which makes Mary happy and makes her feel safe. In fact, Mary loves the fog because it hides her and keeps her away from her bitter reality, as she tells Cathleen that: "It hides you from the world and the world from you. You feel that everything has changed, and nothing is what it seemed to be. No one can find or touch you anymore." (2, 147) So she feels that the fog surrounds her like a fence and protects her from the outside world, which means that it makes her forget the bitterness of her reality and keeps her away from the problems of her life, just

as it keeps the problems of life away from her. Accordingly the fog is one of Mary's means for escaping from her bitter reality and that she is far away from problems and worries and every thing that makes her feels stressed. So the fog is just like the drug for Mary that makes she feel that she is safe, completely isolated from any problem, and far from sadness, and this is what gives her a sense of happiness and security. (Abbotson, 2005, p. 106)

In fact Mary lived a life of traveling and alienation from society sacrificing her happiness for her selfish, miserly husband escaping from her miserable reality through drugs addiction. Even the isolated country house in which Mary has to live in during the summer indicates a social escarpment from society and reality because her husband refuses to socialize with neighbors and friends, as she explains to her son Edmund saying:

Data 8

I've never felt it was my home. It was wrong from the start. Everything was done in the cheapest way. Your father would never spend the money to make it right. It's just as well we haven't any friends here. I'd be ashamed to have them step in the door. But he's never wanted family friends. He hates calling or people, or receiving them. (1, 59)

In fact Mary the beautiful, spoiled girl gives up her dreams in order to get her happy fairy tale after meeting her charming prince Tyrone, only to be shocked by the miserable reality of her stingy husband! Who abandoned her and their children, abandoning his responsibilities towards them for the sake of money. (Raleigh, 1966). Thus Mary drowns in the problems of life which exceed her ability to bear, so she escapes from her pain and the misery of her reality with drug addiction.

We move on to the second character in the play Mr.Tyrone who the plays open with him finishing breakfast with his wife Mary. He is:

Data 9

Sixty five but looks ten years younger. About five feet eight, broad- shouldered and deep-chested, he seems taller and slenderer because of his bearing, which has a soldierly quality of head up, chest out, stomach in, shoulders squared. His face has begun to break down but he is still remarkably good looking- a big, finely shaped heads a handsome profile, deep-set light-brown-profession is unmistakably on him. (1,4-5)

Tyrone, the old and parsimonious actor, finishes having breakfast with his family, declaring his desire to buy a new land, which urges his wife Mary to express her dissatisfaction with his great tendency for buying property. He believes that buying land is the best way to raise money saying that "land is land, and it's safer than the stocks and bonds of Wall Street swindlers." (1,9). Moreover her husband's indifference provokes her to reply to him that he doesn't care about what he should care about, which is the health of their son Edmund who has fits of coughing continuously. Furthermore she complains that he did not give her what a wife and mother need to live in safety and stability with her children in a warm house, and that all what her husband wants is to own more lands, Saying "it's always seemed to me your father could afford to keep on buying property but never to give me a home." (22,106)

Tyrone is annoyed by his constant need to defend himself and justify his behaviors because of his wife and children's constant accusations of negligence towards them and his lack of concern for them because of his extreme stinginess. In fact his wife Mary and their children accuse him of being the main reason for their miserable health condition (his wife's addiction to drugs and his youngest son Edmund's infection with tuberculosis) because he didn't care about them and refused to take them to qualified doctors, and satisfied himself with the help of doctor Hardy because his wages did not exceed a dollar. Jamie confronts his father with the fact that everyone knows that he prefers Doctor Hardy only because he is very stingy and because Doctor Hardy charges only a dollar. Jamie explains saying: "Everything's the matter with him! Even in this hick burg he's rated third class! He's a cheap old quack!... Hardy only charges a dollar. That's what makes you think he's a fine doctor!" (1,35) And "you're one of the biggest property owners round here" (1,35) Furthermore his father refused to admit them to good sanatoriums that would help them to recover especially his son Edmund, as Jamie tells his father saying: "It might never have happened if you'd sent him to a real doctor when he first got sick." (1,35)

Tyrone is constantly exposed to a lot of accusations and pressures from his wife and children, accusing him of cruelty, indifference and neglecting his family duties towards them. In fact Tyrone worked hard throughout his life to

reach the fame that he obtained and he made many sacrifices to ensure that there was enough money for his family, although he was spending most of his money to buy properties. Tyrone justifies his extreme stinginess and his eagerness for money because of his miserable and cruel life he lived as a child. He explains that his suffering as a child being responsible for his family when he was only ten years old "when I was ten my father deserted my mother and went back to Ireland to die" (4,234-5) and that "I was the man of the family. At ten years old." (4,235) and:

Data 10

I worked twelve hours a day in a machine shop, learning to make files. A dirty barn of a place where rain dripped through the roof, where you roasted in summer, and there was no stove in winter, and your hands got numb with cold, where the only light came through two small filthy windows, so on grey days I'd have to set bent over with my eyes almost touching the files in order to see! You talk of a work! And what do you think I got for it? Fifty cents a week! It is the truth! Fifty cents a week! (4,236)

Moreover:

My poor mother washed and scrubbed for the Yanks by the day, and my older sister sewed, and my two younger stayed at home to keep the house. We never had clothes enough to wear, or enough food eat. Well I remember one Thanksgiving, or maybe it was Christmas, when some Yank in whose house my mother had been scrubbing gave her a dollar extra for a present, and on the way home she spent it all on food. I can remember her hugging and kissing us and saying with tears of joy running down her tired face: "Glory be to God, for once in our lives we'll have enough for each of us!" (4, 236)

Accordingly "It was in those days I learned to be a miser." (4, 237) Obviously that the suffering of Tyrone the child and the harsh conditions of his life that he faced in addition to the misery that accompanied him and his family left a profound impact on his life and became a lesson that he depended on throughout his life. Thus through Tyrone's stinginess each member of the family is given an opportunity to blame him for what they are. (Gannon, 1965) Consequently his constant avaricious for obtaining money and his interest in obtaining propriety was his only escape from the harsh conditions that crushed his childhood and deprived him from happiness. Moreover he wanted to spare himself and his family members from going through it, but he paid the price of his wealth dearly because he sacrificed his great and promising talent which could have led him to become the best actor in America, as he tells his son Edmund saying: "I was considered one of three or four young actors with the greatest artistic promise in America." (4,239). But,

Data 11

That God-damned play I bought for a song and made such a great Success in-a great money success- it ruined me with its promise of an easy fortune. I didn't want to do anything else, and by the time I woke up to the fact I'd become a slave to the dammed thing and did try other plays, it was too late. (4,239)

Consequently Tyrone got the money and the wealth he wanted in exchange for sacrificing his distinguished and promising talent, which added another, reason for him to escape from his reality, in which he squandered his great talent by devoting most of his money to the acquisition of property in order to forget the enormity of his loss of his talent and what he could have reached to convince himself that he had achieved happiness and security by obtaining the wealth that made him one of the greatest landowners. Accordingly he consoles himself by escaping from the bitterness of his reality which he cannot bear, and from his poverty which deprived him of the innocence and happiness of his childhood and which force him as a man to give up his promising talent in exchange for wealth.

As the play opens in the living room, Tyrone's two sons follow their parent into the living room where we see Jamie the elder one. He is:

Data 12

Thirty three. He has his father's broad-shouldered, deep chested physique, is an inch taller and weighs less, but appears shorter and stouter because he lacks Tyrone's bearing and graceful carriage. He also lacks his father's vitality, and of premature disintegration are on him. His face is still good looking, despite marks of dissipation, but it has never been handsome like Tyrone's, although Jamie resembles him rather than his mother. (1,15)

While Edmund is:

Ten years younger than his brother a couple of inches taller, thin and wiry... Edmund looks like both his parents, but is more like his mother.... Edmunds hands... have to a minor degree the same nervousness... He is plainly in bad health. Much thinner than he should be, his eyes appear feverish and his cheeks are sunken. (1,16)

In fact Edmund has been suffering from a critical health condition since childhood and his suffering has increased with age. Moreover his cough which has become non-stop indicates that the tuberculosis which he inherited from his maternal grandfather. Accordingly Edmund and his brother Jamie were deprived of enjoying a happy childhood and a normal life especially Jamie who had to take care of his younger brother. Furthermore their mother's addiction to drugs which increased the pain of Jamie who had to live the repeated deprivation of his mother and his younger brother because of their frequent admission to the sanatorium form treatment of addiction. Consequently Jamie could not bear his bitter reality as he saw his beloved family members suffering and he could not do anything to ease their pain, so he had to escape from the misery of his reality by following the footsteps of his father by drinking at an early age while he was still a student which led to his expulsion from the school. Mary explained her shock at the suffering of her son Jamie, addressing her husband Tyrone with deep sadness saying that:

Data 13

Who would have thought Jamie would grow up to disgrace us. You remember James, for years after he went to boarding school, we received such glowing reports. Everyone liked him. All his teachers told us what a fine brain he had, and how easily he learned his lessons. Even after he began to drink and they had to expel him, they wrote us how sorry they were, because he was so likable and such a brilliant student. They predicated a wonderful future for him if he would only learn to take life seriously.... It's such a pity poor Jamie. (3,169)

Mary blames her husband, accusing him of facilitating their children's, especially Jamie's, resort to drinking because of the father's heavy drinking saying:

Data 14

You brought him up to be a boozier. Since he first opened his eyes, he's seen you drinking. Always a bottle on the bureau in the cheap hotel rooms! And if he had a nightmare when he was a little, or a stomach-ache, your remedy was to give him a ten-spoonful of whiskey to quiet him. (3,170)

In fact Edmund supports his mother's words accusing his father of being the reason for facilitating his brother Jamie's alcoholism saying: "Anyway It's true. You did the same thing with me. I can remember that spoonful of booze every time I woke up with a nightmare." (3,170) Accordingly Jamie could not bear the burden of his painful reality, from which he was escaping from with his addiction to alcohol, which subsequently led him to an addiction to relationship with prostitutes. Thus when Tyrone learns that his son Jamie spends most of the day until midnight in the "whore house," he comments that "it's the fit place for him. If he's never had loftier dream than whores and whiskey, he's never shown it." In fact Tyrone is worried and in pain for his elder son Jamie who completely succumbed to addiction to drink and prostitutes, and tried to advise him repeatedly trying to spare him the extravagance of his money and health which would lead to his failure in life saying;

Data 15

"You've never known the value of a dollar and never will! You've never saved a dollar in your life! At the end of each season you're penniless! You've thrown your salary way every week on whores and whiskey!" (1,37)

Moreover he blames Jamie, who does not only hurt himself, but also negatively affected his young brother increasing the deterioration instead of protecting him and being a positive example for his brother to follow, preventing him from making mistakes in order to preserve his health and achieving happiness and success saying that: "You've been the worst influence for him. He grew up admiring you as a hero!... You made him old before his time, pumping him full of what you consider worldly wisdom." (1, 42) Jamie tried to cope with his harsh reality and to bear seeing his mother and brother withering because of illness, which doubled Jamie's suffering. Thus he search for any way to forget his suffering and to get rid of his worries and alcoholism was his only escape. Accordingly the more he worries about his

mother and brother the more he needs to indulge in a life of recklessness to the extent that he spends most of his time after he finishes acting in the theatre in the bars and with prostitutes.

Edmund the younger son in the family, who despite his poor health since his childhood, was able to prove himself and achieve a new successful start in his life as a writer and this is what make his father happy for him as Tyrone explains saying: "He's been doing well on the paper. I was hoping he'd found the work he wants to do at last." (1, 44) In fact Tyron feels guilty towards his young son Edmund because he neglected his son's treatment from a young age and did not provide Edmund with intensive medical assistance he needed as the parents usually do by hiring a qualified doctors specialized in the treatment of tuberculosis. On the contrary he preferred to save money instead of spending it to provide the necessary treatment.

In fact Edmund himself could not stand his serious illness which he contracted at an early age in his childhood and was never able to adapt to it. Moreover his mother's addiction to drugs represents an additional burden to him, but what increased his misery is his deep sense of disappointment by his father, who preferred to keep the money instead of treating his sick son. Consequently his sense of alienation from his family members increased even more which made him escapes to the sea which he loves so much traveling between countries on board of the ships he loves.

Thus Edmunds infection with tuberculosis in his childhood and his father's disappointment of him makes him lacks the sense of belonging to his family and depth his spiritual sense of belonging to the universe as a whole. In fact he could not cope with his illness due to the continuous deterioration of his health. In addition to his constant concern about the health of his mother, who did not respond to addiction treatment and did not stop using drug, and therefor he wants to get rid of all his worries by returning to the sea and feeling again the happiness he felt while traveling by the sea. He yearns for the sea constantly telling his father about his memories with the sea, justifying that by saying:

Data 16

They're all connected with the sea. Here's one. When I was on the Square head Square rigger, bound for Buenos Aires. Full moon in the trades. The old hooker driving fourteen knots. I lay on the bowsprit, facing astern, with the water foaming into spume under me, the masts with every sail white in the moon light, towering high above me. I became drunk with the beauty and singing rhythm of it, and for a moment I lost myself-actually lost my life. I was set free! I dissolved in the sea became white sails and flying spray, became beauty and rhythm, became moonlight and the ship and the high dim-starred sky! I belonged, without past or future, within peace and unity and a wild joy within something greater than my own life or the life of Man, to Life itself! To God, if you want to put it that way. (4, 247)

Moreover he impresses his father saying:

It was a great mistake, my being born a man, I would have been much more successful as a sea gull or a fish. As it is, I will always be a stranger, who never feels at home, who doesn't really want and is not wanted, who can never belong, and who must always be a little in love with death! (4,247)

Accordingly Edmund longs for the past in which he lived happily enjoying his life achieving his dream and did not have the worries and the problems that surround him now. Thus he yearns for the past because he longs for what he lacks now of happiness, safety, and peace of mind because the past represents happiness and security for him unlike his present.

In fact Edmund is not the only character who longs for the past because his mother Mary longs for the past in which she knew true happiness and security by achieving her dream of marrying Tyrone, she expresses her idea saying that "only the past when you were happy is real!" (3, 59) Thus "the past is what displaces in her mind her reality of the present!" (Chabrow, 1976, p. 173). Furthermore the last scene of the play confirms completely the importance of the past for the characters, who escape from their painful present reality and yearn for the happy past, as we see Mary carrying her wedding dress that she found in the attic and she is trying to remember her overwhelming happiness in her marriage to Tyrone (Tilak, 1981), as she ends the play by saying "that was in the winter of senior year. Then in the spring something happened to me. Yes, I remember. I fell in love with James Tyron and was so happy for a time." (4,286). Accordingly all the characters were captive in a past that they cannot change. (Miller, 1964)

4. Conclusion

To conclude, O'Neill undertakes to demonstrate the urgent need of the individuals whose life circumstances disappoint them putting them in situations beyond their endurance, trapped emotionally and spiritually who lacked the understanding, empathy and fortitude that they really need in such a harsh world in which the members of the one family failed to help each other to overcome their serious problems. Through his portrayal of the predicaments of the Tyrone, O'Neill justifies their various impulses and means of escaping (especially the negative ones), from their bitter reality without which life would be almost impossible. Moreover O'Neill does not judge the characters or their escape methods from a moral point of view, so much as pointing out the existence of these trapped characters who suffer in a ruthless society and in a world of indifference where there is no sense of sympathy because human feelings are not enough to solve their problems. In fact O'Neill himself was seeking to escape from his reality because he wanted the play to be represented after his death and not during his life, and his escape from reality was reflected on the characters of the play.

Mary's escapism is the result of her exposure to continuous disappointments from her husband because of his miserliness and his failure to provide a warm home and a stable and secure life for her and their children, and his negligence of her health and the health of their children. Her only outlet to escape from her miserable reality was drug addiction, which her husband Tyrone was the main reason for because of his stinginess. Thus, the more she tries to break free from the bitterness of her reality the more she becomes attached to drug addiction.

Tyrone's escapism is the result of being the main reason of the problems of his family members, as he was the direct cause of his wife's Mary's addiction to drugs because he insisted on making her treated under the supervision of an ignorant doctor only because he was paid a fee of one dollar. Besides being the main reason behind the infection of his younger son Edmund with tuberculosis also because of his stinginess because he was satisfied with Edmund's treatment by Doctor Hardy and not by qualified doctor.

In fact Tyrone suffered a very harsh childhood that crushed him and his family members to the extent that he became very stingy and interested in buying property only to find what he and his family member's depend on when needed and to prevent them from suffering conditions similar to those of his childhood, thinking that he is collecting money to protect them from poverty, but in fact he sacrificed with their health.

Jamie restored to alcoholism and the addiction to relationship with prostitutes in order to get rid of the suffering of his mother's addiction to drugs and his brother's serious illness. He could not bear the fact that his dear ones and closest to him were suffering and that their health was constantly deteriorating. In fact he tried to escape from his painful reality by destroying his own health and future along with the deterioration of the health of his loved ones.

Edmond's escapism from his painful reality is because of his fragile health and his infection with tuberculosis which made him want to escape to the sea where he lived the most wonderful days of his life. In fact he longs for the sea that takes him far away from his home where no one of his family sees painful suffering with illness.

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