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Elements of Naturalism in Jack London's "To Build a Fire" and "The Law of Life"

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ABSTRACT

This research examines two famous short stories of Jack London "The Law of Life" and "To Build a Fire" through the lens of naturalism. Naturalism is the representation of the harsh realities of life in a scientific way of objectivity. The movement of naturalism started in the late nineteenth century and believes that human beings are bounded by their surrounding environment, heredity, social obligations, and their pre-determined fate. The main aim of the present investigation is to highlight the naturalistic elements in the selected short stories by the mean of qualitative analysis. The conclusion shows that the short stories are enriched with naturalistic elements i.e. struggle of man against the indifferent nature for his survival, hopelessness, fate and determinism, social obligations, and other naturalistic elements.

Keywords: Naturalism, Nineteenth Century, Fate, Determinism, Hopelessness, Social Obligations, Survival.

Introduction

This study examines elements of naturalism in "To Build a Fire" and "The Law of Life" by Jack London. The term naturalism is defined in the Cambridge dictionary as "showing people and experiences as they really are, instead of suggesting that they are better than really are or representing them in a fixed style" The late 19th and early 20th Century literary and artistic movement known as naturalism was stirred by the application of natural science's procedures and concepts, primarily the Darwinian view of nature, to those genres. By aiming for an even more accurate, unselective portrayal of reality, a true "slice of life," offered without moral judgment, it extended the tradition of realism in literature. Naturalism can be defined as a movement in art and literature that said that environment and hereditary factors influence human characters. It is an extending form of realistic expression which neglect creativity and subjectivity and

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favors more scientific tools to produce work of art. Naturalists believe in creating characters on a scientific basis – which characters should be left in the environment with their fate. Character in a naturalistic form of expression faces the forces of the natural environment and will be helpless before these forces and his/her fate will decide destiny. Naturalist authors portray characters as their fate is free-determined and their destiny is despair and they can do nothing but only to face environmental forces. The only job of the author is as an observer same as a scientist taking notes of what he/she observes. It's a pessimistic approach that depicts characters' miseries, death, and destruction. The influence is mostly negative according to naturalism because naturalist dramas, novels, and philosophy mostly talk about pessimism, environmental factors, and hereditary factors.

Prejudice, pessimism, racism, diseases, poverty, and a filthy environment are all the focus of Naturalist writers. To these writers presenting the lower-class people in an urban city is of primary concern. "The basic elements of naturalism mentioned: determinism, lower class plausible characters, objectivity, immoral contents, the language of the actual world and pessimism…" (Surur & Dengela 2019, p. 1721). The naturalist writers try to depict the dark and pessimistic side of modern society due to the influence of technology and scientific discoveries which devastated the natural life of humans. Naturalism tries to reject scientific methods of knowledge and only focus on the natural world against the supernatural world but in this way naturalism itself is questioned on philosophical grounds whether naturalist thinks that naturalism is a scientific tool itself. The answer is no; it is not but just a theory that gives too much focus to the observation of the natural world while excluding erroneously the rest of the solar system.

Origin, Expansion, and Influence of Naturalism

The movement of naturalism appeared first in France in the late nineteenth century (1860). It was initially anticipated and framed by Emile Zola, the French writer, and theorist, who is globally considered the father of literary naturalism. As a literary movement, it took place in between 1865 to 1900 that used meticulous realism to propose that social conditions, heredity, and environment has unavoidable force in modeling human character. Emile Zola was the first naturalist writer who marked his name in history and became the first writer to produce literature in the light of naturalism. Naturalism is the presentation of a truthful picture of life through scientific theories and techniques. The naturalist represents the harsher reality of life containing a careful and detailed presentation of modern society. The practitioner of naturalism generally portrays characters who are from less privileged in social and economic classes and are affected by their environment and heredity. The authors achieve their goals through objective observation like the scientist. The word naturalism describes a philosophy that characterizes human beings who must adapt or behave like animals for their survival in nature and they should be portrayed realistically in the world of literature as ordinary human beings.

This movement posits that the environment, social conditions, and familial influences contribute to the development of an individual's character. Consequently, naturalistic writers frame their narratives on the premise that the environment influences and

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dictates human character. The novel depicts a family's experience of tragedy resulting from societal challenges and developments beyond their control. … The characters in the narrative are influenced by their circumstances, like puppets manipulated by their environment. They are unable of effecting any good change in their life and are very despondent. (Khan, Ali & Hassan 2019, p.179). Additionally, we observe the application of some scientific ideas in naturalistic works as well as people attempting to survive in a hostile society. In actuality, naturalism drew inspiration from Darwin's theory of evolution, which maintains that survival of the fittest is the only criterion for success in life. The idea of scientific determinism makes naturalism a bit different from realism, which prompted naturalistic practitioners to accentuate man's incidental, physiological nature nor his moral or intellectual traits. Naturalists also opposed Romanticism and believe that artists should portray the reality of the world and reject subjectivity and imagination. They think of a writer as a scientist whose job is to note and observe. "The scientific methods infiltrated into the literature; the word "writer "could have been substituted easily with the term 'scientist', according to Zola, because both the writer and the scientist can experiment with his material" (Surur & Dengela 2019, p. 1721). Individual characters were viewed as powerless byproducts of their environment and genetics, driven by deep innate urges from the inside, and oppressed by external social and economic constraints. As a result, they lacked motivation and accountability. As a result, naturalism can be seen as a more severe kind of realism that pushes the boundaries of creative writing by incorporating heredity and environment as unquestionable determinants of human behavior and rejecting the inclusion of any metaphysical or spiritual viewpoint.

A movement that started in France gradually expanded to Europe, and America and then spread throughout the globe. Naturalist authors follow the same style and themes. One of the American naturalist author Hamlin Garland (1860- 1940) based all his writing on social protests. His work artistically portrayed the miserable condition of farmers. "Because of the societal and economic constraints of the period, the people's lives were terrible. In one of his pieces, he describes "unpaved streets, drab-colored, miserable rotting wooden buildings"—depicting an environment that is really realistic'" (Khan. Ali & Hassan 2019, p.175). Stephen Crane in 'Maggie: a girl of the street' tells the story of a prostitute's miserable life. It is very obvious in the writing of naturalistic writers that depicts the miseries and suffering of the characters. As naturalism is a derivational term of post-Darwinian biology (19th century) which claims that the character and behavior of human beings are solely determined by two external (natural) forces heredity and environment as humans are higher-order animals. It implies that they do not have any soul or way of participating in a religious or spiritual world beyond the natural world. Hunger, the need to acquire belongings, and the urge to be sexually active are some examples of compulsive inclinations that people inherit. These traits are then vulnerable to the social and economic pressures of the family, class, and environment they are born into.

There is widespread agreement that Jack London (1876–1916) is among America's finest naturalist authors and is among the most famous American novels of his day. He was at the forefront of realistic and naturalistic writing in the United States. Natural selection and Darwin's theory of "the survival of the fittest" had a profound impact on

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him. Almost all of his writings display a naturalistic mindset and set of ideas.

Summary of the "The Law of Life"

The short story "The Law of Life" was written by an American author Jack London, and published in 1901. The story was written in the light of a naturalistic movement that depicted human struggles and their fate.

The central character of the story is an old man named Koskoosh, who was one's the chief of his tribe but now he is weak, blind, and sick. He was seated alone with some stack of firewood which was provided to him by his granddaughter sit-cum-to-ha and Listened to the voices of his tribe who were leaving the camp without koskoosh in search of finding another place where they can survive against the harsh weather conditions of winter and find food easily.

His son was now the chief of the tribe and comes toward him for a goodbye. Koskoosh ensured him that he is well with his fate. Now the old koskoosh, when he was alone, realizes the fear of death and knows that there is only one thing standing between him and death. So he quickly builds the fire and reminds the incidents of his past. He thinks of his friend zing-ha, who was a great warrior and hunter, with whom he play-hunting in his childhood. The life of his friend zing-ha ends with a tragedy by falling into an air hole. He also recalls the death of his mother during the time of famine. Old Koskoosh remembers how he left his own father on an upper reach of the Klondike. Koskoosh realizes that it was only the survival of the species which matters and that the task of life is to perpetuate. He accepts death as the law of life.

At the denouncement of the story when Koskoosh has not had enough woods to build the fire to survive against the cold weather and to keep himself safe from the wolves, meanwhile he was attacked by a moose and he helped himself with a burning faggot but soon realizes that he was encircled by many wolves and there is no way to escape. He surrender and lowered his head waiting for the death with pride.

Summary of the "To Build a Fire"

In Jack London's story "To Build a Fire" the protagonist of the story is an anonymous character the unnamed "MAN" who is traveling in winter along the frozen Yukon River. The land is covered with snow. The temperature of Youkon territory is fifty degrees below zero and it is extremely cold. He was advised by an old man that a man should not travel alone when the weather condition is fifty degrees below zero. The main character of the story started his journey along with a Husky to meet his friends in the evening at six o'clock in the camp, where a fire would be set.

The man ignores the dangerous situation of nature and continues on his track in weather that is not safe to travel. The temperature was indifferent to him and he uses the dog as a tool for his survival. There were traps, a pool of water under snow and he came up with several traps. Whenever he suspects danger, he compelled the dog to go in front. The man was walking four miles in an hour and then he decided to build fire and take his lunch, which he carries inside his jacket against his skin to keep it from freezing. Both the man and the dog take a sigh of relief and then again start moving toward their journey.

The man suddenly falls through a thin patch of ice and wets himself to his knees. He realized the fear of death and tried hard to build a fire. Just as he builds a fire under a

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tree carrying a weight of snow which falls on fire and puts it out. The man was struggling to build a fire again but failed because his fingers were frostbitten, and he was unable to build fire at this moment. The dog the only living thing makes him think wickedly and wildly. He thought why not kill the dog and bury his hands in the warm body to avoid the harsh and wicked environmental situation? He was unable to hold his sheath knife with his dead fingers. The numb fingers were unable either to touch or clutch and then he realized that it was no longer a matter of freezing but it was a matter of life and death. To keep his body warm he starts running but it was not the solution. He sat and waited for his death to meet it with dignity. The dog left him and started running toward the camp, where were the other food providers and fire providers.
The current research aims to highlight and find out how naturalism and its elements are used in the short story. The researcher has chosen the short story named "To Build a Fire" and "The Law of Life", by Jack London. The main characters of both short stories are struggling against their pre-determined fate.

Research Objectives
To explore the elements of naturalism in "To Build a Fire" and "The Law of Life".
To analyze how fate and determinism affect the life of the protagonists.

Research Questions
What are the elements of naturalism in "To Build a Fire" and "The Law of life"?
How does fate and determinism affect the life of the protagonists?

Significance of the study
The researcher has examined and explored the naturalistic elements in the selected short stories. This research thesis would be helpful especially for the literature students to know how naturalistic elements are used by jack London in his short stories, "To Build a Fire" and "The Law of Life" and in other pieces of literary work. This research thesis would be beneficial for teachers to clarify to their students to some degree about the naturalism philosophy and how to use it as a research tool. This thesis would be very valuable for the public readers to understand naturalistic philosophy and its practical implementation in life. This thesis would be very useful for English literature readers to understand the themes and hidden message of what the author wants to convey in his short stories to the readers and also help them to understand effectively and easily.

LITERATURE REVIEW
According to Jeffery W (2006), defined that a literature review has two significant elements. First, it should briefly précis the findings that have appeared from the previous research efforts on a subject. Second, a literature review should grasp a conclusion about how accurate and complete that knowledge is; it should present your considered findings about what's right, what's wrong, what's questionable, and what's missing in the existing literature.
Ferhati (2016), published a research paper entitled "A comparative study of the manifestation of naturalism in Stephen crane's "The Open Boat" and Jack London "To Build a Fire". The paper aims to highlight the naturalistic viewpoints of naturalism,

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fate, and determinism, as well as the Darwinian approach. The researcher also depicted the nineteenth century of American life. Ferhati also concluded that American naturalism is one of the most significant literary movements. The research also demonstrated that the protagonists of the two short tales are held back by biological and environmental constraints, unable to give up and let their guard down because of these factors. Following this, we presupposed that the characters in both tales are participating in Spencer's "Survival of the Fittest" scenario.

The paper titled "Naturalistic elements in Ahmad Ali's Novel Twilight in Delhi" was published by Bilal in 2019. Using a naturalist lens, the author of "Twilight in Delhi" by "Ahmad Ali" examines the tale in this article. A literary philosophy known as "naturalism" holds that people's deeds are hardwired from birth and influenced by their societal responsibilities. This article's goal is to draw attention to "Twilight in Delhi" by analyzing its realistic aspects and plot points. Ultimately, the novel's protagonists and antagonists are powerless victims of events beyond their control, rendering them despondent and useless. Studies have shown that Ahmad Ali's Twilight in Delhi is filled with realistic details.

Rita (2021) published a research article titled “NATURALISM IN THE SHORT STORY OF WILLIAM FAULKNER’S “A ROSE FOR EMILY” 2022-2021. In this paper the researcher found two elements in a short story “A Rose for Emily” wants to demonstrate the influence of situation towards the individual’s life, in which Emily has become the victim of her father and society. The researcher further argued that fate, nature or heredity explain why the why a character’s journey clarify the way it does. Force beyond one will and control predetermined forces on everything. He also found that tragedy as the effect of naturalism is the most important in the naturalistic novel. Terrible thing must happen to the main character because of man have no power to control nature and force.

Shafaq (2021), published a research article titled "Individual Preferences and Constraints: A Naturalistic Study of Exit West". The researcher of this study focused on the naturalistic factors that affect an individual free will and how he or she acts by facing certain environmental limitations. It focused on the concerns of survival, human nature and behavior, detachment and social environment affecting the lives of heroes. This research also investigates naturalism with the help of experimental means that succeeded universally. It is a vision of an up-to-date life by emplacing the effects of inheritance and environment. It also demonstrates expectable consequences of the selections they have made. This study shows the view of world and the forces nearby humans. This research represented a contemporary society by highlighting subordinate class character.

Azam (2012), published a research article titled “A study on Naturalism in the Short Story a Man in the Cage by Iranian Writer Sadegh Choobak.” In the research article, the researcher aims to highlight naturalistic themes in the short story of Sadegh Choobak. The researcher concluded in his research that humans are confined by their social environment, heredity, and exterior forces of nature which play an important role in shaping human character. The naturalistic movement shows the acceptable reality of life through scientific analysis. In this research article, the author examines that the main themes of naturalism were poverty, corruption, prostitution, violence, racism, and

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prejudice. The researcher found the story as a naturalistic and it can be observed by the detachment of the author from the central character of the story. A pessimistic tone is used throughout the story and also the setting, plot, and subject matter of the story verified that the story is based on a naturalistic concept.

Wang (2018), published a research article titled "Analysis of the Naturalism in The Open Boat". The Chinese scholar Wang has also contributed a lot to the study of naturalism. This research article analyzes the open boat as a naturalistic play. Researchers came to the conclusion that the story's four protagonists are symbolic of humans; they lack agency and are unable to alter their fates as a result of life's predetermined choices. They are all helpless victims of nature, with no agency whatever. The researcher examines that the four characters in the story understand the philosophy of life and the limitlessness of human powers in front of the cruel nature.

Haj at. All (2021), conducted their research article on "Gilmetdinov's Ecocritical Animated-Adaptation of London Naturalism in The Law of Life." According to both scholars, that the ecocritical gaps which London has abandoned in favor of his indifferent naturalism against humanity. Both the researchers concluded that the law of life is a short draft of naturalism. It narrates a story of survival and fate under the indifferent forces of nature in which a noticeable contrast between an Indian tribe and the superior law of life thinks the existence of the species at the price of an individuals. The central character of a story may conflict with some element in his own nature. That is a conflicted man against himself. According to both scholars, human beings are not only the victim of nature but the other creature on this earth are also under the power of cruel nature. The fittest can only survive against nature and wild animals. As such part of naturalism attempts to define the underlying forces in life in a scientific way besides its logical arguments about mankind's position in the world. London law of life presents us with a simple picture of natural life between Indians.

METHODOLOGY

This study investigates Jack London's "To Build a Fire" and "The Law of Life" to answer research questions related to elements of naturalism. Various critical materials, research papers, reviews, and publications were studied to explore how London incorporated naturalistic elements shaping the characters' destinies. Being qualitative in nature, the research applies a content analysis approach focusing on American naturalism, its characteristics such as pessimism, despair, indifferent nature, and struggle for survival, and its theoretical roots in Emile Zola's ideas and Darwin's "survival of the fittest." Analytical and descriptive methods are used to study the cause-and-effect relationship between humans and nature through close reading, reading and rereading the texts for interpretation. The research examines sociocultural tensions and socio-natural conflicts to determine how fate influences the protagonists' lives. The theoretical framework of naturalism guides the analysis and interpretation, supported by previous research. The procedure involves an in-depth reading of the selected short stories and critical sources, emphasizing the pessimistic effects of nature, the struggle for survival, and the indifference of the natural world. Data is gathered from books, articles, reviews, and online sources and analyzed using the lens of naturalism to trace London's depiction of reality through scientific objectivity, with his ideas of "survival

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of the fittest" and "the big fish eat up the small" forming the framework for interpretation.

ANALYSIS AND DISSCUSIONS

Description

The description is one of the main elements of producing a piece of literature and the writers always provide a description of the characters and scenes in their literary work but the practitioner of naturalism portrays a brief and complete description of the characters, surroundings, and external environment because these forces of nature have a deep effect on the characters presented in their work. As in the given short story by Jack London's "The Law of Life" the main character is described as:

"It is well. I am as a last year's leaf, clinging lightly to the stem. The first breath that blows, and I fall. My voice is become like an old woman's. My eyes no longer show me the way of my feet, and my feet are heavy, and I am tired. It is well." "THE LAW OF LIFE"

In the above lines, we can clearly observe the element of naturalism. The writer provides a detailed description of the character and draws an image of the character in such a way that it makes the readers connected with the story and the picture becomes visible to the readers.

The description of the surrounding shown in another story of London "To Build a Fire" is given below:

"It was nine o'clock. There was no sun nor hint of sun, though there was not a cloud in the sky. It was a clear day, and yet there seemed an intangible pall over the face of things, a subtle gloom that made the day dark, and that was due to the absence of sun" "TO BUILD A FIRE"

From the above lines, we can conclude that the story has a naturalistic element. As the description highlights the surrounding environment of the Yukon Territory which suggests that these outer forces bound its inhabitants and have an indifferent nature toward them. The environment described in the story is a great danger to the survival of the man and thus the unkind environment controlled the life of the man and has no kindness for him.

Pessimism

Pessimism is one of the major elements of naturalism and naturalistic writers present a pessimistic theme in their work which can be clearly and quickly observed by the readers from the very begging of the story. There are external forces in the environment that govern human behavior and these external forces have no mercy which leads naturalistic writing more pessimistic. Naturalism is the representation of the harsh realities of life and the dark side of nature so the readers always observe a will of surviving and expect a tragic end of the story in a pessimistic tone.

In the short story by Jack London "The Law of Life" we detect the pessimistic tone from the start and which can be observed throughout the story. The main character of the story Koskoosh is bounded by social duties, heredity, and environment which stretch a pessimistic tone throughout the story. We can observe a pessimistic theme from the following lines.

"One by one they would go to feed the fire, and just so, step by step, death would creep

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upon him."

"THE LAW OF LIFE"

In the above line, the fire symbolizes life and the woods symbolize the time that he had. As the old Kooskoosh has been left behind by his tribe because he is too weak to travel with some pile of woods. Kooskoosh knows that he can only survive with the help of fire as the last stick surrender its heat his body will freeze in such cold weather. This shows that the life of Koskoosh is under the control of cruel nature and he is helpless. The characters in the story have no free will and this makes the story more pessimistic and naturalistic. His opinion about the other creatures also shows that according to him many others also live a tragic and miserable life because of the pre-determined fate by the outer world forces.

In another line when Koskoosh says:

"They had passed away like clouds from the sky."

"THE LAW OF LIFE"

In the above line again we can observe a pessimistic tone when Koskoosh thinks about the people of his tribe who passed away. Koskoosh knows that nature did not care for anyone and all must die one day and he is also helpless and powerless in front of this ultimate certainty of death. This kind of representation of the characters and their views is the key feature of naturalism which make the story naturalistic.

In London's story "To Build a Fire" the pessimism can be observed when the man was easily going through the hurdles of a cold environment and suddenly fall into the pool under the ice and wet himself halfway to the knees and realize the danger of cold. This feature of naturalism can be observed in the line:

"He was angry, and cursed his luck aloud."

"TO BUILD A FIRE"

We can observe the tone of pessimism in the above line which is one of the main features of naturalism. The central character of the story The Man knows that he had to get into camp with the boys at six o'clock and this would delay him and once his feet get freeze then he will be unable to recover them. The character realizes that it is not only a matter of freezing but it is the matter of life and death. The predetermined fate of man by the external forces of nature makes the story sad and pessimistic. We can also see the pessimistic theme in another line:

"A certain fear of death, dull and oppressive, came to him."

"TO BUILD A FIRE"

The above line shows clearly a pessimistic theme because the man is struggling for his survival against the extremely cold weather but failed every time. He became hopeless when he realized that there is no way to survive and understand human weaknesses in front of the power of nature.

Another example of pessimism is the author's decision to repeatedly emphasize the harshness of the outside world and the freezing temperatures in the short story "To

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Build a Fire," which pose a significant danger to the protagonist's survival and ultimately lead to his demise.

Hopelessness

Hopelessness is also one of the main and important elements of naturalistic writing. The characters in naturalistic writing are bound by their social duties, heredity, and environment which makes this feature more visible in naturalistic writing. This feature can be observed in the story from start to the end that every character in the story is hopeless, sad, and bound by their social duties which makes the story more tragic and miserable.

In the short story "The Law of Life" we can observe the hopelessness of Koskoosh from the following lines:

"It is well. I am as last year's leaf, clinging lightly to the stem"

"THE LAW OF LIFE"

In the above line, we can observe the hopelessness of Koskoosh as he realizes that his time of death is near and he has no control over his life. The narrator of the story compares himself with a leaf whose time of death is close. It clearly shows the desperateness of the character as he knows the ultimate power of nature and that nature did not care for any individual and has no mercy for any flesh so he surrenders his will against the natural law of life and accepts his death. We can also get the theme of hopelessness from another line.

"Again he saw the last stand of the old Bull Moose, and Koskoosh dropped his head wearily upon his knees."

"THE LAW OF LIFE"

In the above line, the theme of hopelessness is also dominant. Koskoosh became old and weak to fight against the wild animals and harsh environment. He does not see any hope and cannot help the situation. When he recognizes that there is no way of his survival and he has no more courage and energy to fight against wolves so he accepts his fate like the moose and receives his death with dignity.

In the second short story of Jack London "To Build a Fire" the theme of hopelessness can be observed from the very beginning of the story. When the author describes the surrounding:

"There was neither sun nor hint of sun in the sky"

"TO BUILD A FIRE"

The theme of hopelessness can be observed from the setting of the story when the author describes the main character of the story who is traveling alone in such harsh weather. The temperature is fifty degrees below zero and it was a tremendous cold. There is the absence of sun in the sky which make the day more horror and it was not a good choice by the man to travel alone in such a dangerous cold. This description of the surrounding is enough to illustrate the theme of hopelessness. This feature of hopelessness can also be observed in the line

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"The man was shocked. It was as though he had just heard his own sentence of death."

"TO BUILD A FIRE"

In the above line, we can observe the hopelessness of the character when the set fire was blotted out by snow falling from a tree. His feet were freezing because of the extreme cold and his fingers were numb. It makes the character sad and he wishes that if he travel with a trail-mate so he could have built the fire. Also, the loneliness of the character in such a harsh winter when "Day had broken cold and grey, exceedingly cold and grey" pushes us to think of the incapable of man in front of nature. He is powerless against the supreme power of nature.

The Indifferent Nature

In naturalistic writing, nature is an indifferent force that affects the life of characters in naturalistic work. Nature does not care for any individual decisions and neither has merci for humans nor for animals. In naturalistic literary work, we observe that sometimes the characters are acting against nature while sometimes nature is against the characters. This feature of naturalism can be seen in both the short stories of Jack London "The Law of Life" and "To Build a Fire"

In the understudy short story "The Law of Life" we can observe this theme of naturalism in the following lines:

"Nature was not kindly to the flesh. She had no concern for that concrete thing called the individual"

"THE LAW OF LIFE"

Here Koskoosh understands the law of life that we are just dummies in the hand of nature and fate. He understands the philosophy of nature that it did not care for the individual rather her concern only lies in species. Nature is indifferent to family love, social life, and survival which can be clearly observed in the story. Throughout the story, there is a conflict between natural powers and the characters of the story. Nature has no kindness for anybody and it affects the life of every character in the story.

Similarly, the theme of the indifference of nature against humans can also be observed in "To Build a Fire." From the beginning of the story, the central character is fighting against harsh weather to join his friend's camp. It can be observed throughout the story that nature is totally indifferent to the struggle of man. The author constantly shows in the story how nature has already planned out his fate and punished him at every stage of his journey. The man is shown as a victim of nature all over the story.

The indifference of nature can also be observed when the snow fell from a tree and the fire was dead. Here we can conclude that the indifference of nature put the Man in serious danger later on which became the cause of his death.

"The old-timer on Sulphur Creek was right, he thought in the moment of controlled despair that ensued: after fifty below, a man should travel with a partner."

"TO BUILD A FIRE"

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Once the Man was warned by an old-timer that no one should travel alone when it was below fifty degrees because he was aware of the unkindness of the environment and the human weaknesses in front of nature. The protagonist did not take his advice seriously and soon he was affected by the environment. Throughout the story, nature was totally indifferent toward him, and also it can observe that his fate is predetermined by the environment.

Fate and Determinism

Fate is one the most important key element of naturalistic writing. The characters of naturalistic writing have no free will in their writing rather their life is predetermined by the environment. This feature of naturalism is very much dominant in Jack London's stories. The characters in both short stories are bounded by their external environment, heredity, and social duties. The character struggles and fights against their predetermined fate throughout the story but they are failed because naturalists believe that human beings cannot escape their fate.

In Jack London's short "The Law of Life" this feature can be observed as very much dominant. For example, when Koskoosh says:

"It was the same everywhere, with all things. The mosquitoes vanished with the first frost. The little tree squirrel crawled away to die. When age settled upon the rabbit it became slow and heavy, and could no longer out foot its enemies." "THE LAW OF LIFE"

From the above-mentioned lines, we can conclude that the life of every creature in this universe is in control of fate and they are just puppets controlled by their predetermined written fate. Nature does not care for anyone its law remains the same for everyone. The trees will die. The mosquitoes will be gone with the first frost. The rabbits will ultimately be incapable to beat their hunters when age will be settled upon them.

We can also observe the central character Koskoosh who was also a victim of his fate. He was left behind by his tribe to death as same as he abandoned his own father and the young son of Koskoosh should expect the same fate in his old age as well. All of the characters in the short story are bounded by their heredity, social duties, and the environment which inhabits their behavior, and seems that they have no free will. They are just at the mercy of their fate.

In another place when Koskoosh says:

"And in the end, Death waited, ever-hungry and hungriest of them all."

"THE LAW OF LIFE" Here Old Koskoosh understands that the life of every creature is predetermined by his fate. Death is a natural phenomenon that waits for everyone and all existing creatures but an episode and he must face death like all the rest. "All men must die" because It is "the law of all flesh". This type of representation makes the writing of Jack London very much naturalistic and we can observe throughout the story a pessimistic determinism of the characters.

In another short story by Jack London "To Build a Fire", we see how the free will of the central character in the story is bounded by the nature. The fate of the protagonist of the story is already predetermined by nature. There is a conflict between the free will of the Man and his fate and this theme of naturalism is very much central in this short story.

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In the course of the short story to build a fire, we see from the very beginning that the central character is affected by his ill fate throughout the story. The main aim of the protagonist is to join his friend's camp but the cruel environment makes his survival impossible. He became the victim of the cold. Every time he tries to build fire he faces some tragedy and no matter what he does in front of his fate and his predetermined destiny he fails each time. Here we can observe that the character's free will has no value besides their predetermined fate. In one place when the narrator says:
"Well, he was bound to freeze anyway, and he might as well take it decently"
"TO BUILD A FIRE"
From the above reference line, we can conclude that the fate of the Man is already predetermined. He was bounded by natural forces and no matter how hard he struggle he cannot run out of his fate. The character is shown as just a puppet in the hand of the surrounding. His every step and destiny is in the control of his environment.

Struggle for Survival

Survival is one of the key characteristics of a naturalistic literary work. The characters in naturalistic writing are always shown as fighting for their survival. This feature of naturalism can be observed in both the short stories of Jack London; "The Law of Life" and "To Build a Fire".
In "The Law of Life", the central character of the story struggles for his survival, although he was weak. We can observe a constant struggle for survival even after he was left alone by his tribe to die. He built a fire to protect himself from the cold environment and also from the wild animals. When death was drawing near to him, he was still hoping for his son and granddaughter that they might come back to rescue him, which was against the rules of the tribe.
"Perhaps the heart of his son might soften, and he would come back with dogs to take his old father on with the tribe to where the caribou ran thick and the fat hung heavy upon them."

"THE LAW OF LIFE"

When Koskoosh was encircled by the wolves, he fought for his survival till his last breath. This theme of survival can also be observed in the lives of other characters. As Koskoosh's son left his own father for the survival of his tribe.
In a similar vein, "To Build a Fire" explores the same idea of survival. The unnamed character of the story was fighting against the cruel weather for his survival. Throughout the story, the Man was struggling to build a fire in order to save his life against the extreme cold weather. The importance of survival can also be guessed from the title of the story. In the story, the Man uses his companion Husky as a tool for his survival, as he pushes him first when he suspects traps. When it becomes a clash between life and death, he tries to kill the dog in order to warm his fingers and build a fire for himself.
"He would kill the dog and bury his hands in the warm body until the numbness went out of them. Then he could build another fire."

"TO BUILD A FIRE"

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The theme of survival runs throughout the whole story. Finally, when there was no hope left for the survival of the main character of the story, he ran blindly to warm his wet feet. This feature of naturalism can also be seen in the character of the dog. The dog left his owner for his own survival and in search of new food and fire providers. Survival is one of the significant element of naturalistic writing which is the dominant theme of the short story and make the short story a naturalistic literary work.

Conclusion

In light of the analysis conducted in this study, it appears reasonable to assert that naturalism is a significant literary trend. Naturalism represents reality along with the causes and circumstances of that reality. Jack London, one of the most important figures made a significant contribution to the history and development of naturalistic literature. He is universally considered a canon among American naturalist writers. He was greatly influenced by the Darwinian theory of evolution. His writings include clear references to "survival of the fittest" and "the big fish eat up the small" theories. By analyzing "The Law of Life" and "To Build a Fire," the researcher has drawn attention to the key elements of naturalism. The naturalistic characteristics are well shown in London's two short tales, "The Big Fish Eat Up the Small" and "The Fittest Can Survive," via the characters of elderly Koskoosh and an unnamed guy, respectively.. Time and again as readers we witness that their fate is pre-determined and are helpless in front of it. Their destiny is only suffering and despair and are helpless spectators of all their miseries, as in “To Build a Fire” the protagonist can do nothing to save himself from the severe coldness of the weather. These short stories depict the lives and the tragic endings of the protagonists. The stories are about the natural tragic situations in which the characters are trapped and are there to face the harsh consequences. The study finds out that both of Jack London’s short stories exhibit naturalistic elements.

The naturalist movement propagates that environment and hereditary factors influence human characters. And we have seen that both the protagonists are influenced and affected greatly by their environment and hereditary. Naturalist writers believe that the destiny of a human being is decided by the forces of nature and the environment. Jack London has also depicted in his works that his characters’ destiny was driven by nature and fate. Naturalists hold that human beings are constrained by their inherent nature and that no matter how hard they try or how well they prepare, they cannot escape their fate. They are helpless in front of nature, which predetermined their lives. The characters in both short tales are constrained by their surroundings, inherited traits, and societal obligations in front of which they have no free will. Protagonists in both short stories are powerless to use their free choice and make a difference in their own lives. It has been portrayed that nature has an impact on their lives, and is impacted by the environment. They are puppets in the hands of fate and nature and cannot do anything to change the course of their lives.

We also observed that in both the short stories the indifferent behavior of nature toward man’s suffering leads both the short stories to a tragic end. Nature has been shown as a hound and the protagonists as its prey who as a result have suffered. Old Koskoosh, the primary character of “The Law of Life”, is shown as being highly gloomy and forlorn, with little indication that he will survive, in contrast to the figure in “To Build a Fire”

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who struggled against an oppressive environment and perished. Jack London in his short stories used a naturalistic approach to highlight the issues in mind. It will be not an exaggeration to say in the conclusion that both the short stories are abundant with naturalistic elements. It is concluded in the light of the present conducted study that "The Law of Life" and "To Build a Fire" are perfect examples of naturalistic literary works as they contain a number of naturalistic elements.

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