
Homophobia, Rejection and Mental Problems: A Critical Stylistic Study of *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*

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Abstract



This study's main focus is to draw attention to difficulties and challenges faced by LGBT individuals. In this study, the researcher examines the author's discursive construction of queer issues and themes in S J Sindu's novel Marriage of a Thousand Lies. The author portrays of queer issues and themes in the novel are incredible. In order to examine the discursive construction of queer issues, the chosen novel presents a distinctive opportunity to examine and investigate the discursive construction of queer issues such as Homophobia, parental and societal rejection, mental health issues, and intersectionality of Queer Issues in a particular literary work. The researcher prime objective is to examine the novelist's use of language and other literary techniques to represent queer issues and themes in Marriage of a Thousand Lies. Queer theory provides the theoretical basis for this study. In order to understand the deeper meaning of purposely chosen text and the cultural and social contexts in which it is situated, the researcher employs Critical Stylistics, Lesley Jeffries' ten tools, as a method of data analysis. This study uses a qualitative approach to analyze the chosen texts in light of the study's research objectives. Both primary and secondary sources provided data for this study.

Keywords: Queer Issues, Queer Theory, Critical Stylistics, Lesley Jeffries' Ten Tools

Introduction

SJ Sindu's portrayal of the LGBT issues, themes and identities in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* is incredible. The chosen novel presents a range of queer issues which LGBT individuals experience in their lives. Different issues experienced by queer people includes parental rejection, mental health issues, homophobia and intersectionality of queer issues are portrayed in the chosen novel. Butler (1990) and Sedgwick (1990) assert that queer fiction has become an influential literary genre in recent years, challenging social norms about gender and sexuality.

Homophobia which is defined and characterized as an irrational fear of LGBT people, it can take a variety of forms, including intolerance, maltreatment, harassment, violence, and the denial of fundamental human rights. According to Renzetti and Edleson (2008), different acts, emotions, and hostile attitudes towards sexual variants and those who identified as LGBT individuals are all considered to be homophobic (Renzetti & Edleson, 2008). According to Newcomb and Mustanski (2010), internalized homophobia is linked with mental chaos (Newcomb & Mustanski, 2010).

According to Walczk (2014), the prevailing homophobia in society makes it challenging for homosexuals to openly express their sexuality and gender identity. The representation of homosexuality in popular media and culture doesn't necessarily reflect its true nature (Walczk, 2014). The homophobia, prejudices and discrimination against homosexuals in society compel those individuals to hide their true identities in order to avoid these. Choosing to continue hiding one's identity or to stay in the closet suppresses an important portion of one's identity and way of life. Hiding identity to a great extent is linked with lessen well-being (Riggle, Rostosky, Black, & Rosenkrantz, 2007). Queer or LGBT individuals experience more mental health issues than those individuals who are heterosexual, and as a group, the queer people are more likely to face poor mental health outcomes compared to heterosexuals (Blosnich, et al. 2014).

According to Needham & Austin (2010), familial reactions to individual's sexual identities range from rejection to acceptance. And these responses can have negative impact on family

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interactions and the health of young adults (Needham & Austin, 2010). According to Savin-Williams (1994), LGBT individuals have often been expelled from their homes and rejected by their families due to their sexual orientation (Savin-Williams, 1994). According to Blosnich, et al., (2014), those individuals who are homosexuals face more mental health problems than those who are heterosexuals. (Blosnich, et al., 2014).

Statement of the Problem

The problems and challenges LGBT people have in the traditional, cultural, and socioeconomic context are analyzed in this study. The difficulties experienced by LGBTQ individuals such as homophobia, parental rejection, and mental health issues and intersectionality of queer issues are portrayed in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*. The novel under study also portrays the struggle of main character of Lucky, A lesbian who is compelled by her conservative Sri Lankan family to get into a heterosexual marriage or marriage of convenience. Throughout the novel, homophobia is a recurring subject that is depicted by the writer through the demands of families and society that uphold heteronormativity. Lucky also internalized homophobia as she struggle to negotiate her own sexual identity with her family's expectation. When Lucky decides to live a lesbian life and true to her identity, she faces parental rejection. Lucky also experiences severe mental distress because her parents pressures and expect her to comply with the traditional cultural norms. Lucky in the novel, as a queer woman faces and deals with particular troubles influenced by her gender identity, culture, and race. Queer people face these issues in real life, so the researcher studies these issues in the context of the novel under study. For this purpose, the researcher uses Queer theory as a theoretical framework in this study. Lesley Jeffries (2010) provides ten tools that the researcher employed to examine the carefully chosen passages for this research. The researcher employs Critical Stylistics analysis as a method for data analysis.

Research Objectives

- To explore in what ways queer issues are constructed discursively in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*.

Research Questions

1. In what ways are queer issues (e.g., Homophobia, Familial or Parental Rejection, Mental health issues, and Intersectionality of Queer Issues) constructed discursively in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*?

Literature Review

Parental or familial Rejection after Coming Out

In the LGBT community, the process of self-acceptance can be both beneficial and challenging. Coming out to family may be one of the most difficult part of this journey. Those individuals who belong to sexual minorities may face distinctive and particular trouble regarding decisions that whether it is safe to reveal their true sexual behavior to their close relatives (Meyer & Schwitzer, 1999; Fassinger & Miller, 1996; Cass, 1979; Troiden, 1989) .Even though people's perceptions have changed with the passage of time, family rejection continues to be one of the challenges faced by many LGBT individuals. According to Cass (1979), The process to disclose one's sexual orientation to other people is one the great challenges faced by many LGBT individuals (Cass, 1979).It is also important to note that the family rejection can have major emotional, psychological, and even bodily impact on individuals shows how important it is to address and understand this problem.

Family rejection may also have a very serious and bad impact on the mental health of an individual. Those LGBT individuals who are rejected by family, they experience more depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. It may also lead an individual to feel hopelessness and disparity, which might be because of being unloved by family. When an individual internalizes homonegativity, it may lead to bad health displays such as depression and anxiety etc. (Feinstein, Goldfried, & Davila, 2012). The term homonegativity, which is also known as internalized homophobia, is described as the extent to which those who identify as LGBT taken into heart unconstructive supposition, feelings, and societal dishonor regarding LGBTQ identity (Rostosky, Riggle, Gray, & Hatton, 2007). According to Meyer (2003), the minority stress model shows that how the unreceptive and worrying social environment caused by stigma, injustice, and prejudice against Individuals, due to their sexual orientation, may increase the risk of harmful mental health consequences (Meyer, 2003).

LGBT individuals may also conceal their sexual identities from friends because of the fear of peer rejection, which may result in interpersonal strife and emotional upheaval. This stress leads to

internalized homophobia, inadequate coping mechanisms, and low self-esteem (Feldman) Barret & Swim, 1998). According to Goldfried & Goldfried (2001), LGBT individuals may avoid revealing their identities to people because of the fear of that they may lose the support of their friends or families, in addition to out of concern that they may become homeless as a result of being disowned (Goldfried & Goldfried, 2001). Homelessness among LGB people remains a concern (Schmitz & Woodell, 2018).

Mental Health Issues of LGBT Individuals

Mental health is a significant facet of the common wellbeing, it may be affected by different things such as a person's identity, social surroundings, and experiences are just a few examples. LGBT individuals often face many difficulties that may have an effect on their mental health. An important framework is provided by Minority stress theory (Meyer, 2003) for comprehending differences in sexual minority mental health issues. According to this theory or model sexual minorities face different continuing stressors due to their stigmatized identities, including oppression, unfairness, and discrimination. The mental health and comfort of LGBT individuals are excessively compromised by these distinctive experiences as well as regular or universal pressures. According to Blosnich, et al. (2014), those individuals who are homosexuals face more mental health problems than those who are heterosexuals, and as a group, are more likely to face negative mental health outcomes compared to heterosexuals (Blosnich, et al. 2014).

According to Bostwick et al. (2014), those individuals who are identified as lesbians, gays and homosexuals often face and suffer from stigma, prejudices, inequality and social elimination—which includes physical and psychological abuse, harassment, and other forms of maltreatment (Bostwick et al., 2014). Furthermore, the LGBT individuals may experience these discriminations in a variety of contexts, including crucial interpersonal ties like family, job, school, and the health care system (Milburn et al., 2006). Therefore, many researches imply that those LGBT individuals who experience prejudice, discrimination are more likely to feel mental suffering (Cochran and Mays, 2000; Dean et al., 2000). For instance, LGBT population may have seen higher risk of suicide (Hershberger & D'Augelli, 1995; Cochran & Mays, 2000).

The LGBT community experience greater incidence such as angst, temper and issues, and suicidal feelings due to violence, social rejection, and isolation. Women who identified as bisexual have much worse mental health than lesbians or heterosexual women, perhaps because of rejection from both the gay and straight groups (Chatterjee, 2014).

Homophobia

Homophobia refers to and is characterized by irrational fear of those individuals who identify as LGBT individuals, intersex, asexual etc. it can take various forms which include defiance of fundamental human rights, verbal and physical abuse, harassment, prejudice, and persecution. Many LGBT individuals' lives are impacted by problems of homophobia. Many researchers have examined the effect of homophobic behavior on LGBT peoples' lives, their societal status and their mental health. Homophobic behavior or homophobia is a behavior of being prejudice in which people keep illogical attitudes, convictions towards LGBT individuals.

Homophobia may cause or lead LGBT people to mental health issues which is very important issue. Due to homophobic behavior, LGBT individuals may suffer from serious mental health issues, including anxiety, despair etc. LGBT people also encountered social isolation, familial and societal rejection and physical exploitation due to homophobia. These events may lead an individual to feel isolated, guilty, or self-conscious, all of which can make your mental health issues worse.

LGBT individuals are impacted by homophobia and it has potential to harm the mental health of queer or homosexuals. Those who identified as LGBT may face the societal stigma, discrimination and rejection which lead them to experience depression and suicide thoughts. LGBT people's sexuality can be affected by homophobia in different ways. Such people might fear to seek sexual health service and information due to societal stigma and prejudice. It might also lead to a lack of knowledge about proper sexual behavior, which could increase one's chance of getting HIV and STIs. The LGBT individual's physical health may also suffer from homophobia. The stress and anxiety as a result of homophobia may lead to heart problems, and other persistent health problems.

Intersectionality of Queer Issues

The term 'intersectionality' is used to refer to how social groupings like race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and other characteristics of identity are interconnected and can thus create overlapping

and mutually dependent systems of prejudice and difficulty. When talk about queer issues, intersectionality becomes important as people's lives are impacted not only by their sexual orientation but also by their other social identities and the cultural structures in which they live. Those individuals who are identified as queers and are part of the LGBTQ community often face challenges like prejudice, discrimination and marginalization because of their non-heteronormative gender identity. Nevertheless, not all queer people face the same challenges because the discrimination they come across can be made worsened by their intersecting identities.

According to Rosenblum's view of queer intersectionality highlight the fact that most of LGBTQ individuals face prejudice as a because of being women, people of color, low-income individuals, cross-gendered individuals, those who confront traditional gender norms, and those who defy sexual norms (Rosenblum, 1994).

Research Method for Data Analysis

The researcher used Critical Stylistic Analysis as a method of data analysis in this study which focuses on a text's linguistic and stylistic elements. The objective is to understand the deeper meaning of a text and its social and cultural background. According to Jeffries (2010), critical stylistic is used to uncover hidden ideologies in any text. The researcher used Lesley Jeffries' (2010) ten analytical tools to analyze the novel under study. According to Lesley Jeffries (2010), critical stylistics is a toolkits of ten analytical that scrutinize the ideology and power that are embedded in language as well as the ideology that is expressed in literary works (Jeffries, 2010, pp. 1–16). This approach can be applied to different type of text, including literary, political, social, and more. It is not specific to any one genre of literature. The researcher investigated the chosen text in light of the critical stylistic tools developed by Jeffries (2010). Lesley Jeffries has developed a new method to study text by linking the gap between stylistics and CDA (Xiang, 2011). According to Jeffries (2010), critical stylistics is a set of analytical tools with many subcategories (Jeffries, 2010, p. 11): Naming and Describing, Expressing Actions/Occurrences/States, Comparing and Contrasting, Exemplifying and Enumerating, Prioritizing, Assuming and Implying, Negating, Hypothesizing, Conveying the Words and Thoughts of Other Individuals, Representing Time, Space and Society.

Analysis and Discussion

This Section of the study presents the analysis and discussion conducted by the researcher to examine and analyze the research question outlined above. The researcher in this study applied Lesley Jeffries' (2010) Ten Tools to examine the purposefully chosen texts, as well as the researcher examined the passage in the context of queer theory.

Critical Stylistic Analysis of the Parental Rejection of Queer Individuals in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*

The passage understudy presents the issue of parental rejection of queer individuals. The mother of lucky in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* refuses to accept her daughter's way of life, which is clearly evident in the below mentioned bold out dialogues between Lucky and her mother. The critical stylistic analysis of the below selected passage as bold out for the readers convenience shows how the text producer discursively constructed the issues of queer people in the text which answer the research questions outlined above.

“This is no kind of life. I cannot accept a daughter like this...” (Sindu 2017, p. 176).

The researcher uses Lesley Jeffries (2010) teen tools to carry out the Critical stylistic analysis of the passage under study. The passage under study uses clear and direct language to express the Lucky's mother dissatisfaction with the current Lucky situation, and also shows emotional and mental state of lucky's mother about the situation. The use of the words likes "no kind of life" and "cannot accept" convey a clear sense of disapproval. This passage shows the problem and issue faced by queer individuals, Lucky a Lesbian woman is not accepted by her parents as lesbian or by being true to herself. The author use of "cannot accept" suggests a strong sense of priority for the speaker. it also indicate a negative stance, The writer uses of phrase "This is no kind of life" employs negation to emphasize the speaker's dissatisfaction. The passage under study directly presents the Lucky's mother thoughts about the daughter's life.

The analysis of the above selected passage proved the views of the queer theorist Sedgwick, that how queer people are rejected by their families and societies and how to find new ways of accepting queer identities. According to Sedgwick, identity is a complicated combination of decisions,

understanding, and proficient duties. Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick aim is to create an accepting world where people of all differences are respected and valued.

Critical Stylistic Analysis of Homophobia in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*

The passage under study is a dialogue between Lucky and her mother, Amma. The passage highlights the tension between personal identity and parental and societal expectations as well as the issue of homophobia. The passage highlights the issues such as familial expectations, society norms, and the intricacy of human identity within the setting of cultural and social influences. **“Was it my fault?” she asks. “Did I make you like this?” “It’s not your fault.” She bends toward me, crumples at the waist and cries into the snow. “The community will hate you,” she says. ... ,“This isn’t supposed to be your story. Not my daughter.” She sounds more sad than angry.”**(Sindu 2017, pp. 207-208).

The researcher uses Lesley Jeffries (2010) ten tools to carry out the Critical stylistic analysis of the passage under study. The Researcher first applies the tool of naming and describing, to analyze how the writer conveys the meaning through naming and description. The author in the passage under study uses the names such as "Kris" and "Amma" which are very significant and also contribute to the social and cultural background of the text. These mentioned names in passage hold familial and cultural importance, also added to the meaning of the text. The writer employs of the personal pronoun in the passage for example "I," "you," and "Amma," create a clear relationship dynamics. It is noteworthy that the name "Kris" is used in the passage since it designates a character who serves as the main topic of discussion. The repetition of the name "Kris" is also important. Because the name becomes a representation of cultural standards and expectations, stressing the pressure on people to follow a defined view of what makes a "good man." The author also uses a term "community" in passage to name the societal structure, which highlights the societal and collective influence on individuals and their lives.

Secondly, the researcher analyzes the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Representing Actions/Events/States. The passage under examination includes many verbs that portray actions. For examples, "asks," "cries," "blame," "driving away," "likes," and "shake" are all verbs representing various actions performed by the characters. The dialogue tags like "she says" and "she asks" are used to highlight the speaking and questioning behaviors of the characters. The dialogue between Lucky and her mother in the passage includes a mix of past tense verbs "cried," "blame," "shakes" and present tense verbs "asks," "make," "isn't supposed to be". This combination of present and past tense adds to the complexity of the narrative. The author use of the word "fault" repeatedly stress on the characters’ psychological struggle and possible attribution of blame. Lucky statement in the passage, "The snow is melting through my saree," which symbolizes both a metaphorical condition (the melting snow) and a physical state (Lucky's helplessness or emotional thawing).

Thirdly, the researcher focuses on finding the author’s instances of equality and contrast in the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Equating and Contrasting. The line in the passage under examination "The snow is melting through my saree" metaphorically equates the melting snow with the emotional chaos of the Lucky. The intensity of the event is reinforced when the physical environment are equated with the emotional state. Lucky’s mother response. "This isn't supposed to be your story. Not my daughter," establish an equation between fixed narrative expected by society and her daughter’s identity.

The researcher further applies the Lesley Jeffries tool of Exemplifying and Enumerating to analyze the passage under study. The writer in the passage under examination uses various exemplifications through characters dialogues to exemplify the emotional tension between Lucky and her mother. Lucky’s mother questions such as was it my fault? Did I make you like this?" serves as an exemplification of the mother's effort to realize and maybe accept her daughter, Lucky sexual orientation. In response Lucky states, not your fault," exemplifies Lucky attempt to communicate to her mother that this is not her fault. The mother's statement, "The community will hate you. They'll blame you for driving away a good man like Kris," enumerates possible negative outcomes that the Lucky might face, while Lucky's revelation, "Amma, Kris likes men. And I don't," enumerates a obvious contrast in sexual orientation between the Lucky and Kris. The researcher also analyzes the passage under study using Lesley Jeffries' (2010) tool of Prioritizing. Use of direct speech, denoted by quotation marks is prioritizing technique. The main focus of the conversation between the characters

is the daughter's questions and the mother's emotional answer. This emphasizes the scene's emotional intensity and interpersonal turmoil.

Furthermore, the researcher analyze the passage by using and applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool of Assuming and Implying, which involves examining the implicit meanings, assumptions. The passage under study shows that Lucky's mother assumes that the community will charge Lucky for driving away a "good man like Kris." This assumption reflects societal standards, expectations and prejudices. Lucky assumes that her mother will reject of her sexual orientation. This assumption is communicates through her statement, "This isn't supposed to be your story. Not my daughter." The Lucky's response to her mother, "Amma, Kris likes men. And I don't," implies that Kris is gay, and Lucky is not interested in men romantically. "They'll blame you for driving away a good man like Kris," the mother says, alluding to social pressure and condemnation as well as the expectation that people should adhere to certain conventions, even if it means hiding their own selves. The mother's comment, "This isn't supposed to be your story. Not my daughter," implies a sense of disappointment and societal pressure.

The researcher then applies the Lesley Jeffries tool of Negation to analyze the passage under study. Lucky's response to her mother question in the passage under examination, "It's not your fault." Which shows that Lucky refute that it is her mother fault, using a direct negation. Lucky's mother statement in the passage, "This isn't supposed to be your story." Shows that he mother refuse the situation and express her displeasure of the daughter's reality. "Fault," "blame," and "driving away" are examples of negative language that adds to the tone of negativity and conveys a sense of guilt or accountability.

Critical Stylistic Analysis of the Intersectionality of Queer identities and Issues in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*

The passage under study presents the intersectionality of queer issues. The passage present the idea of the societal expectations and norms based on the racial and cultural backgrounds. The passage under study reflects on Lucky, a lesbian woman, experience of being "brown" and hint that, in their culture, there is a predestined narrative gives to individuals from the moment of their birth.

"Let me tell you something about being brown like me: your story is already written for you. Your free will, your love, your failure, all of it scratched into the cosmos before you're even born. My mother calls it fate, the story written on your head by the stars, by the gods, never by you. Everyone is watching you, all the time, praising you when you abide by your directives, waiting until you screw up. And you will screw up."(Sindu 2017, p.15).

The researcher uses Lesley Jeffries (2010) teen tools to carry out the Critical stylistic analysis of the passage under study. The Researcher first applies the tool of naming and describing, to analyze how the writer conveys the meaning through naming and description. The author use of the term "brown" in the passage under study refers to describe the identity of the speaker, Lucky. This term is employed to signify a racial or ethnic background. the writer in the passage under study also used the word "fate" which suggest a predetermined view of life that individual cannot control. The repetition of the word "you" establishes a direct connection with the reader, making the narrative more engaging. The author also repeatedly used the word "you" to establish a connection with the reader. The mention of "My mother" brings in a familial viewpoint, providing the speaker Lucky's background. The author used the phrase "being brown like me" in the passage under study to portray Lucky racial identity, which also set a stage for the discussion on societal expectation and intersectionality of queer issues. the author also used the phrase "your story is already written for you" which communicate the concept of predestined fate. the use of phrase by writer such as "Everyone is watching you, all the time" highlights a sense of being subjected to constant scrutiny, societal expectations and pressure.

Secondly, the researcher analyzes the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Representing Actions/Events/States. The author in the passage under study used the present tense and present participle such as (being, written, watching, praising).which add to the vivid portrayal and sense of engagement with the reader. The writer used Action verbs in the passage under study such as "tell," "is written," "scratched," "calls," "watching," "praising," and "screw up." These verbs which employed by the author point out a range of actions, from storytelling and writing to observing and praising. The writer use of present tense in the line "your story is already written for you" in the passage under study display a sense of immediacy, indicating the concept that event is

certain and ongoing. The paragraph under examination discuss and describe events, for instance, the lucky mother explaining the concept of fate my mother calls it fate"), the idea that one story is predestined and written in the cosmos and, the constant scrutiny judgment queer individual faces.

Thirdly, the researcher focuses on finding the author's instances of equality and contrast in the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Equating and Contrasting. The passage under study begins with the Lucky speak about her experience of being brown. The writer uses of "like me" shows the narrator personal connection, which suggests that Lucky is equating her Identity with concept of being brown. The concept that "your story is already written for you", here in these lines, the author equates it to the lack of free will. The writer used the phrase "Everyone is watching you, all the time" which suggest that being brown subject you to constant scrutiny, which also shows the intersectionality of queer issues.

The researcher further applies the Lesley Jeffries tool of Exemplifying and Enumerating to analyze the passage under study. The writer in the passage under study exemplifies the challenges and troubles experienced by queer individuals who are "brown like me." The speaker in the passage stresses on the predetermined nature of her life experiences based on their cultural background, and express her idea that everything including love and failure is already written for you even before you are born. The passage under study also shows the instance of enumeration, such as the enumeration includes "your free will, your love, your failure," the writer list in the passage different aspects of life that are influenced and affected by the predetermined narrative.

The researcher also analyzes the passage under study using Lesley Jeffries' (2010) tool of Prioritizing. The main focus in this passage under examination is on the predetermined nature of the lucky's life based on their identity. The passage under study shows that the author prioritizes the concept that is evident in the lines "your story is already written for you," which emphasize the influence and impact of societal expectation and fate on the life of a queer individual over free will. Furthermore, the researcher analyze the passage by using and applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool of Assuming and Implying, The passage under study shows that the writer assumes a shared belief regarding being brown. The author used the phrase "Let me tell you something about being brown like me" shows that the narrator assumes that the reader has a shared experience of what it means to be brown, and develop a sense shared identity between the narrator Lucky and the readers. The statement in the passage that "your story is already written for you" assume that an individual life is predetermined. The passage under examination also implies the lack of one's control over life. The phrase "your story is already written for you" implies a fatalistic view of life. The author use of the term "Everyone is watching you, all the time" implies a sense that how queer individuals are subjected to constant societal pressure and scrutiny.

The researcher then applies the Lesley Jeffries tool of Negation to analyze the passage under study. The passage under study presents instance of negation too, for example the phrases, "your story is already written for you" and "never by you" the author uses negative structure and stress on the idea that everything is predetermined and individual lack of control over one's destiny. Moreover, the researcher analyze the passage under study by using Lesley Jeffries (2010) another tool of Hypothesizing. The passage under study suggests at hypothesis that queer individuals with certain cultural and racial background may be subjected to the societal standards and expectations and predetermined narratives, which shape their experiences. The analysis of this selected passage confirms the view of Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick that identity is a multifaceted combination of decisions, understanding, and proficient duties.

Conclusion

The researcher purposely employed Queer theory in this study as a theoretical framework and Lesley Jeffries's ten tools as a method for the analysis of purposefully selected passages. This chapter covers up the examination of the research issue and delivers the research findings. The research question in this study is about queer issues, and the researcher analyzed how the writer in *The Marriage of a Thousand Lies* discursively constructs queer concerns. The chosen novel offers a nuanced and broad analysis of LGBT issues.

A major queer issue that Marriage of Thousand Lies highlights is Homophobia or the fear of homosexuality and this issue is interconnected with both personal identity and cultural expectations. This homophobic behavior is evident in Lucky's mother. The author discursive construction of homophobia in Marriage of a Thousand Lies encompass the manner in which cultural norms, societal

standards, and n personal attitudes influence characters' experiences and perceptions of homosexuality. The novel also explores another issues of internalized homophobia. Internalized homophobia is a termed used to refer to the acceptance and internalization of societal attitudes and prejudices by queer individuals against their own LGBT identity.

One of the queer issues in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* is the concept of parental rejection. The researcher analyzed how the author discursively constructed the familial relationship, particularly between queer character Lucky and Nisha and their parents, emphasizes the familial expectation place on these characters by their families which create difficulties and challenging environment for self-discovery and acceptance. The novel also examines the psychological and emotional impact of parental rejection on queer characters. The researcher also examined the author's discursive construction of how the characters, Lucky and Nisha faced the wide range and familial and societal reaction from rejection to acceptance, which lead them to face many mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, feeling of alienation and unloved by family etc.

The researcher also examined that the author discursive construction of queer issues is intersect with other components of identity such color, ethnicity, and immigration status, queer issues are intersect with other aspects in marriage of a Thousand Lies. This intersectional approach of author emphasizes different challenges faced by queer characters, which adds to the discursive creation of queer concerns. The Novel explores the intersectionality of Lucky's identity as a queer woman of color. The author discursive construction of queer issues in the novel is influenced by the intersection of Lucky 'cultural background and sexual orientation. The novel also highlights the difficulties and challenges face by queer an individual in a society that does not comprehend and accept them.

Future Research Recommendations

This researcher in this study only focuses on the discursive construction of queer issues such as homophobia, parental or societal rejection, and mental health issues. Other researchers can further conduct the studies from different point of views. A researcher may conduct comparative stylistic studies between *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* and other contemporary LGBTQ novels which represent similar themes of homophobia, rejection, and mental health. As well as investigate the intersectionality of these issues by examining how the protagonist's race, class, gender, and cultural background affect her experience of rejection and psychological distress in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*.

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