

Exposition of Human Aggression in the Plays of Thomas Edward Bond

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1.1 Introduction

Aggression and violence are the most vital issues of the modern society. Despite wide spread education, independence, freedom of thought and speech, freedom from deprivation, fulfillment of basic needs and wants, improvement in socio-economic conditions, style of living, improvement in child rearing practices, in many countries around the world, aggression and violence are on the rise. Mass media like newspapers, television, etc. gives full information on violence, crime, rape, child abuse, sexual harassment, molestation, etc. The alarming rise in the aggressive and indiscipline behaviour of modern men raise finger at the way the society is progressing.

1.2 Coexistence of aggression

The modern society is characterized as highly civilized, educated and belong to great nations of the world. It has high traditions, glorious culture and heritage. It feels proud for the contribution and sacrifice of the great parents and ancestors to the nation at the cost of their personal interests and comfort and happiness. However, it must feel ashamed at the dangerous rise in the aggressive and violent behavior of the present generation throughout the world though the degree of violence and aggression varies from place to place, from society to society, and from country to country.

1.3 The concept of aggression, its meaning and characteristics

Aggression is a negative emotion and it is an important part of human experience. According to Mussen, Conger and Kagan (1969), "Aggressive behaviours are actions that are intended to cause injury and anxiety to others including hitting, kicking, and destroying property, quarrelling, derogating others, attacking others verbally and resisting requests."¹

Aggression is a hostile motivation. It is the wish or desire of an individual to cause injury or anxiety to others. Freud's view of aggression suggests that everyone is born with an aggressive drive and this innate motive expresses itself in action on fantasy, in sadism, destructiveness of war. Alder considered aggression as an instinct, but it is not the same as

the 'death instinct' of Freud. Aggression is self-protection and the affirmation of the self. It is always a consequence of frustration but it is not the only one. It is an instinct of combat. It is far from being injurious. It is obvious from various studies that learning, past experience, cognition, and various environmental factors are responsible for the aggressive behavior.

1.4 Meaning of aggression

There are four meanings attached to the term aggression. They are: 1. Self Assertiveness. 2. To gain possession either of a person, property or object. 3. Hostility, attack or destruction either directly or indirectly. 4. The act of control or sense of dominance.

1.5 Definition of aggression

The World Book Dictionary defines aggression as, "1. The first step in attack or a quarrel; an unprovoked attack . . . 4. An act or attitude of hostility, usually arising from the feelings of inferiority or frustration."²

The Oxford English Dictionary: Volume I defines aggression as, "1. An unprovoked attack; an assault. 2. The act of beginning a quarrel or war. 3. Behaviour intended to injure another person or animal. B. self assertion, forcefulness."³

Aggression in any form of behavior of harming or injuring others and it includes all overt and covert acts. It is a negative character.

1.6 Types of human aggression

Aggressive behavior may manifest itself in different forms or types. Extra punitive, intro punitive, in punitive are different types of aggression.

1.7 Title of the study

Exposition of human aggression in the plays of Thomas Edward Bond is the title of the study.

The World Book Dictionary defines exposition as, ". . . 2. A detailed explanation. 3. A speech or writing explaining a process, thing or idea. . . 5. Exposure."⁴

The World Book Dictionary defines aggression as,"1. The first step in attack or quarrel; an unprovoked attack . . . 4. An act or attitude of hostility, usually arising from the feelings of inferiority or frustration."⁵

Human is defined as, ". . . 4. Having to do with people; belonging to mankind. Having or showing qualities belonging to man. Human describes or suggests any quality, good or bad,

belonging to man as apart from animals or God, but particularly suggests his feelings or faults.”⁶

Exposition of human aggression in the plays of Edward Bond might be taken to mean the speech or writing explaining human aggression, which is manifested in the plays of Edward Bond. In this context, it is an act of explaining in writing the manifestation of human aggression and violence in the plays of Edward Bond.

1.8 Objectives of the study

An attempt has been made in this investigation to study the exposition of human aggression in the plays of Edward Bond as well as to bring out the different types of human aggression as dealt in the plays of Edward Bond. The specific objectives of the present research are:

- To identify and evaluate the different types of human aggression in the plays of Edward Bond;
- To study the pattern of growth of aggression in the plays of Edward Bond.

This research work has, in addition, an overall objective to develop guidelines for the proper description of human aggression in the plays of Edward Bond.

1.9 Methodology

The methodology used in this study is historical method. In addition, it is supplemented by qualitative analysis.

1.10 Steps involved in the study (Procedure)

The steps involved in this study are given below. The plays of Edward Bond have been –

1. Identified
2. Selected
3. Compiled, and
4. Evaluated.

It is to be mentioned here that to ensure completeness, authors and specialists in the field of English language and literature have been consulted concerning the existence,

availability, accessibility and utility of various plays of Edward Bond and the related materials on him and on his plays.

1.11 Focus of the study

The present study attempts to find answers to the following questions:

1. What efforts have been made either by the individuals or by organizations in the compilation and production of various materials on Edward Bond and on his plays?
2. What is the percentage of the sources on Edward Bond and on his plays to the total output of information sources in the field of English plays?
3. What are the different types of human aggression that are dealt in the plays of Edward Bond/
4. What type of the aggression forms a major part in the plays of Edward Bond?
5. 5. What are the lacunae that are found in the plays of Edward Bond? And
6. How the subject human aggression fit in conformity with the standard framework of our study?

1.12 Significance of the study

The study of the human aggression is not a new one. Social psychologists in the past as well as in the present have shown vigorous interest in the laboratory and field experiments to identify the various

variables of aggression. Aggression is aggravated by previous histories of conflict or other groups that may be hostile to the interests of the threatened group. This view is of the psychologists.

As a study from the literature point of view, it must bring out the sort of reaction that the audience could produce by the enactment of the plays incorporating human aggression. Here our study gets more importance. The cause of disagreement of a scene in the play, for example, where a gang of youngsters stoned a drugged baby in a pram to death in a park, might be responsible for exciting a furore not only in the theatre but also in the press and court of law. However, the play must be considered to have arisen some reaction on the audience and the success of the play lies here. This study should be considered as first of its kind for having brought out such topical interests. Lastly, this study tries to establish a link between literature and Psychology, taking human aggression in the plays of Edward Bond as a case study. Here again this study gets more importance.

1.13 Arrangement of Chapters

As the whole picture of the investigation is out lined, it is purposeful to explain the arrangement of different chapters of the study. This chapter is arranged in six chapters as given below.

Chapter I is entitled 'Aggression'. It deals with the points like introduction, coexistence of aggression, concepts of aggression, meaning of aggression, definition of aggression, types of aggression, title of the study, objectives of the study, methodology, focus of the study, significance of the study and arrangement of chapters.

Chapter II is entitled 'The Plays of Edward Bond'. It deals with introduction, Reaction of Edward Bond, Art and society, Main Interest of Edward Bond, Human Aggression, Two kids of drives, Social Conflict, Nature of violence, and Dissection and Discussion of Aggression.

Chapter III is entitled 'Poverty and Culture'. It deals with Introduction, Meaning of Culture, Scientific Barbarism, Bond's concept of culture, Horrible act of stoning, Nauseating Horror, Real Source, Structure of Pyramid of Aggression, and State of Thoughtlessness and Cruelty.

Chapter IV is entitled 'Subversion of Social Ethos'. It deals with Introduction, Aggression – A Categorical Statement, Adaptation in Social Organisation, Social Satire, Pattern of Disorder and Despair, Causes for Aberrations, Deft uses of images, Sanity and Insanity, and Emotional Aggression.

Chapter V is entitled 'Political Aggression' It speaks about Introduction, Types of Political Aggression, Illogical Myth, Portrayal of Class Society, Political System, Cyclic Pattern of Violence, the Scene of Savagery, Horrific Events, Emotional Reaction, Opposing attitudes, Stalin-Figure, Overt Violence, Violence begetting Violence, Bond's Attitude, Political Aggression and Social Inequality, Emancipation of Society, Political Violence, An Unconventional Form, and The interest of Bond.

Chapter VI is entitled 'Conclusion'. It deals with Introduction, Despair and Hopelessness, The essence of Education, Cultivate a Proper Culture, The result of Clash, Earlier Furore, Manifestation of Aggression, Perfection of his Dramatic Technique, Political Education, Potential Goodness of Nature, Treatment of Violent Action, Truth of Violence and Truth of Apathy, Bond Is a Playwright, and Achievement of Bond.

1.14 Conclusion

In the foregoing pages, the investigator tried to give concisely the aims and objectives of the study. In order to establish a firm basis for the study, the points like aggression, coexistence of aggression, the meaning of aggression and types of aggression are discussed.

The purpose, the focus of the study, significance of the study, etc. are discussed in order to give a clear picture of the study in hand. With this background, the investigation proceeds to the analysis of the plays of Edward Bond.

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