



Loss of Natural Values in The Giver by Lois Lowry

SUMAN CHAUDHARI

Ph.D. Scholar,

Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Abstract:

This paper will represent the significance of natural values in the technological era. Lois Lowry's story meant that if we put more emphasis on the technological age-related with less weight on nature. The methodology of the research in this paper is exploratory and analytical. The study aims to point out the loss of natural values and depend more on technology. It's very hazardous for the people. The research explores more awareness of the importance of nature in our daily lives. This paper concludes with Lois Lowry's cautionary tales that see the future of dystopian culture.

Keywords Technology, Dystopia, Nature, Power, Ideology

1. Introduction

Lois Lowry wrote the dystopian book *The Giver*, which was released in 1993. The book begins with a romantic setting, but as the plot develops, it shifts to dystopian.

The main character of this tale, Jonas, lives in a little village with his parents. He took a job as a receiver to help him recall the past. He received instruction from *The Giver*, a trainer. He learned about the actual aspects of nature and its beauty from *The Giver*. He discusses the colour of nature and snow. According to him, humans lack sentiment and a sense of the natural world. Upon concluding the narrative, Jonas appreciates the significance of experiencing nature and comprehending human interactions.

Lois Lowry's dystopian book "*The Giver*" delves into intricate issues, including uniqueness, uniformity, and the fallout from a society that prioritises eradicating misery at the expense of genuine human experience. In a perfect society where memories, emotions, and decisions are tightly regulated, a young child called Jonas sets out on a quest for self-awareness in this narrative.

The Elders give each person a role in this strictly controlled society and stifle any individuality or expression of self. The story begins when Jonas is chosen to take on the prestigious and uncommon role of the Receiver of Memories. As Jonas starts training under the present Receiver, the mysterious persona known only as *The Giver*, he learns about the complexity of human emotion and the lasting effects of both happy and sad experiences.

With deft storytelling, Lowry invites readers to consider the importance of uniqueness and the cost society bears when eradicating the highs and lows of the human experience. "*The Giver*" challenges readers to consider the value of free will, the adverse effects of conformity, and the fine line that must be drawn between maintaining fundamental human traits and fostering harmony in society. "*The Giver*" is still a popular and significant piece of dystopian fiction because of its interesting ideas and gripping narrative.

2. The absence of feeling and emotion

According to Plato, the essence of humans is composed of three elements reason, irrational noble, and irrational ignoble. The essential characteristic that sets humans apart from non-human entities is their

nature. Consequently, the loss of human nature might lead to them falling within the category of nonhuman beings. The Giver's narrative highlights the dichotomy between humans and non-human entities.

Here, Lowry represented in *The Giver* that human beings became very selfish and emotionless in their life by their daily lifestyles. There is a world where there is no feeling or emotion for people and other things. When Jonas is going to learn and receive new memories, he realises that there is something absent in his and all people's lives. Then Jonas says to The Giver

"It works," The Giver agreed.

Jonas hesitated. "I certainly liked the memory, though. I can see why it's your favorite. I couldn't quite get the word for the whole feeling of it, the feeling that was so strong in the room."

"Love," The Giver told him.

Jonas repeated it. "Love." It was a word and concept new to him. (Lowry 160)

By looking at the novel's lines cited above, it is clear that the pill is supposed to get rid of the desire of human beings. Since human beings in the story consume the drugs, it means that they do not have any sexual desire, which also means that they do not have irrational ignoble. (Meyrasyawati 226)

There are some significant reasons behind the absence of feeling and emotion; some of them are totalitarian regimes, ideologies and governmental rules. People are under severe sanctions and control by government authorities, so people can't develop deep relations with each other, whether it is friendship or relationships. They are all controlled by government rules and regulations; therefore they are emotionless and absent of feeling. Haley's research found that authority how works;

Through his novel *1984* (1948), George Orwell warned of governmental surveillance through the experiences of Winston and Big Brother, the governmental symbol of leadership and control. The motto of the entire novel was "Big Brother is watching you" (Orwell). Today we see a rise in governmental surveillance on our streets, through our social media accounts, and through general technology use. While most current government structures are not to the level of Big Brother, the rise in control is something Orwell warned about through his work, having seen the beginnings of this government structure over 70 years ago. (Haley 10)

The novel's analysis of human nature warns that humanity and real nature will probably eventually resemble robots more and more. It might happen when someone becomes too focused on their work and enterprises and needs to gain awareness of their surroundings. The similarities could go as far as feelings, as it's conceivable that humans are empathetically incapable of understanding the existence and situations of other people. This situation has been equated to destroying the human soul because individuals may lose sight of the qualities that make them distinctively human and apart from other living creatures. Therefore, humans are advised to become more emotionless and self-aware.

3. The absence of love

Ultimately, Love is the supreme thing and feeling of the world. In the novel *The Giver*, there is no place for love. In fact, people don't know what love is, and that's feeling. When Jonas goes to receive a memory from the giver, he doesn't know love. Giver defined and explained the word love and its meaning.

Jonas hesitated. "I certainly liked the memory, though. I can see why it's your favorite. I couldn't quite get the word for the whole feeling of it, the feeling that was so strong in the room."

"Love," The Giver told him.

Jonas repeated it. "Love." It was a word and concept new to him.

They were both silent for a minute. Then Jonas said,

"Giver?"

"Yes?"

"I feel very foolish saying this. Very, very foolish." "No need. Nothing is foolish here. Trust the memories and how they make you feel."

"Well," Jonas said, looking at the floor, "I know you don't have the memory anymore, because you gave it to me, so maybe you won't understand this —"

"I will. I am left with a vague wisp of that one; and I have many other memories of families, and holidays, and happiness. of love." (Lowry 160)

Every day Jonas learns what love is, that's feeling and emotion. Lowry represents the imaginary situation in her tale that there is no place for love, which is a powerful thing in the world. Without love, we can't live properly. Lowry's story represented that love is that thing that people don't know because they regularly take medicine. So, they never realise the feeling of love. Jonas is always curious about love when he stops taking medication and starts to feel the feeling and emotion of love—Lowry's tale represents the absence of love in most people. When Jonas learns the new word "Love", he is totally unaware. Most people don't realise the feeling of love except the giver and receiver.

"The families in his saw in the memories were people who live together by a fraternal bond and took care each other because of love." (Nugroho 7)

4. The absence of nature

"There were a lot of colours, and one of them was called red. That's the one you are starting to see. Your friend

Fiona has red hair — quite distinctive, actually; I've noticed it before. When you mentioned Fiona's hair, it was the clue that told me you were probably beginning to see the colour red." (Lowry 123)

Love is absence; simultaneously, the feeling of natural value is also absent in the tale by Lois Lowry. When Jonas learns the different colours of nature, He is wholly shocked. He realised for the first time that colour is present in this beautiful world. He knows the rainbow, and that's the colour. He learned red, green, blue, and different colours exist worldwide. So, people are completely unaware of the colourful world, especially nature. They don't know what the actual feeling of the natural world is.

They sometimes exhibit human nature, which Plato defined as the combination of reason, irrational noble, and irrational ignoble. They don't possess those three aspects of human nature at other times. In carrying out this investigation, the author used.

"The receiver of memory is a job assignment held by only one society member. This role is the highest ranked assignment and its' responsibilities entail what the name suggests. This individual holds the memories of the past. Only this one person knows what pain, war, color, and love feels like and looks like." (Breen 5)

Jacques Derrida's theory of Deconstruction focuses on the text's appearance of the concepts of absence, binary opposition, inconsistency, and ambiguity. The Giver, the author discovered, presents a different perspective on people. When humans lose their human qualities, such as reason, emotion, and desire, they often start acting more and more like robots. Avoiding this condition is advised as it is seen to be the destruction of a person's soul. This perspective on people might be seen as a cautionary tale for the readers to remember who they are as people and to ensure that they don't lose their identity. This analysis presents The Giver from a fresh angle.

5. Conclusion

The Giver presents two opposing viewpoints on what it is to be human. The first viewpoint is that human nature comprises reason, irrational noble, and irrational ignoble qualities that are inextricably

linked. Characters in other sections of the novel also depict individuals who do not possess the three qualities that define humanity. Consequently, they never attempt to think critically; instead, they unthinkingly follow instructions to go about their lives. This makes people seem more like robots than they are because robots are designed to obey instructions. A common phrase for robots is "machines without feelings or desires," which aptly characterises a few of the book's human characters.

Reference

1. Breen, Elizabeth. The Power of Recreational Reading Youth Developing Through "The Giver". Diss. 2015.
2. Haley, Deborah Faith. "The Dangers of Power Government Control in the Worlds of Condie's Matched and Lowry's The Giver." (2020).
3. Lowry, Lois. The Giver New York Houghton Mifflin Co. 1993. Print
4. Meyrasyawati, Dewi. "Deconstructing Human Being's Nature in Lois Lowry's The Giver."
5. Nugroho Setyo Wisnu, Wisnu, Titis Setyabudi, and S. S. M. Hum. The Self-Actualization of Jonas in The Giver Novel By Lois Lowry (1993) A Humanistic Psychological Approach. Diss. Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, 2018.