



## **Discerning the Effects of Marxism with special Reference to the protagonist in the Mohsin Hamid's "Moth Smoke"**

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### **Abstract**

Class stratification is the most inquisitive social factor which is produced by economic status of the people. These economic issues reveal class separations which form and alter the characters in Mohsin Hamid's important novel 'Moth Smoke'. The undertaken research tends to explore the socio-political and economic conditions of the society. The inherent conflict between Air conditioned and non-Air-conditioned groups will be demonstrated. To analyse and reveal the impacts of Marxism on characters of Moth Smoke by (Hamid, 2000) is the chief purpose of this research. The undertaken novel sheds light on the division of people into two groups: the upper class and the lower class. Hamid (2000) highlights the real picture of the Pakistani society in the modern era through the behaviour of the characters in the novel. Daru represents the lower class and Ozi is the representative of the upper class. The suffering of the lower class and the superiority of the upper class will be explored in this conducted research. The theory of Marxism will be applied. The research will be qualitative in approach and study will employ secondary data. The story of repressed and subjugated finds voices for advocating its cause in the ideology of Marxism which implores their case by declining and snubbing the power, control and strength of bourgeoisie in the economic, political and capitalistic domain which blesses the proletariat a sound situation to survive and thrive in a classless society. The findings of the paper suggest that socioeconomic and political system reinforces the bourgeoisie and breaks the back of the isolated and distressed. The need is to narrow down the gap existed between both groups. All human beings are created equally. So, they should be given equal chances to thrive in the society irrespective to the differences in social groups. It is the aim of the undertaken research that all people should enjoy the equal chances of prosperity.

### **Key words**

stratification, socio-political, bourgeoisie, subjugated, superiority

## **Introduction**

MALIK (2017) states that Hamid is the prominent name in Pakistani English literature. His famous novels are, *Moth smoke* (2000), *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2007), *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (2013) and *'Exit West'* (2017). The undertaken research sheds light on the novel *'Moth Smoke'* from Marxist point of view. The protagonist of the novel is Daru and other main characters are Ozi, Mumtaz, and Mannucci. Ozi is Daru's friend and belongs to upper class. Mumtaz is the wife of Ozi and Mannucci, servant of Daru. The novel narrates the story of Daru's decline. His job is lost and starts affairs with Mumtaz, his friend's wife. Both have illegal relations. Daru's insecurity is shown throughout the novel. Ozi and his wife returns Pakistan from America and due to their arrival, his sense of insecurity increases. Ozi is coming after getting graduate degree. The portray of Pakistani society is presented realistically that ends up consuming the soul (MALIK, 2017). The novel reveals the Marxist effects on the characters of this novel.

Marxist theory pleads that uneven or unfair distribution of wealth and country resources generate serious socio-economic conflict among several classes in society. By keeping in view this aspect of Hamid's *Moth Smoke*, Judd (2006) elaborates that this novel is an attempt to highlight the frustration and misfortune of the lower class of the country.

The country where the upper and the rich class have all facilities and are involved in corruption. A Significant economic division is found within society between the poor and the rich. There are no laws for the rich and they are law breakers. They feel pride in breaking the laws and consider that laws are for the poor. They are not interested to keep contact the lower class.

This type of situation creates hatred among the poor. The lower class feels insecure and deprived in a country where the elite class is born to enjoy all the privileges and considers themselves above from the laws. Typically, this class makes the law. It is not exaggeration to say that in that situation, the law makers are mostly the law breakers. The upper class exploits the lower class for their benefits. They gain all undue favour and facilities when are in authoritative position. They act upon this saying, "Might is right." A severe gap is created among the poor. This gap shows dissimilarity of abundant wealth and complete poverty. The poor being alienated and deprived start having sense of anger and hate for the elites. So, some people want to get rid of from this situation and revolt. They dislike the insulting situation. In this struggle, they start using all legal and illegal means to thrive likewise the upper class.

## **Background of study**

How does Marxism create impact on the people's feeling and emotions? It is central question. Before answering the question, it becomes imperative to get understanding about the concept of Marxism (Awan & Perveen, 2018). To interpret the historical context of this theory is essential. How and When was this concept

came into being. From where was the concept of Marxism emerged, its suppression and growth of social forces: Its economic impacts, its material outcomes, and interaction with the desire of persons. 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries are the witness of Marxism because it arises during these centuries till heads to the new bourgeois social movement which revolves around the human spheres of life, analyse the product and prolific structure of materialist society. Money and power are factors which gave birth to Marxism. These factors created a gap between the upper and lower classes. Frustration and feeling of infuriation are the gift of this gap which affect the different aspects of life negatively. When this movement started, it did not stop. It goes on with human history and starts moving from one generation to another and one century to another and one society(Awan & Perveen, 2018).

Marxism is the product of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century. Marxism is taken as an ideology that gives clarification for the reasons of human manipulation and desolation. It may alter the society by bringing social transformation. Marxism is against to the central philosophy preached by bourgeoisie (Eyerman, 1981). Marxism possesses the emancipatory scheme explained by Dickens (1990). All elites consider it their natural right to exploit the lower class. The lower class is exploited by the rich morally, socially and economically etc. They alter the reality to mask the structure of domination and corruption. It is marked as the social and economic system based upon the political and economic theories presented by Marx and Engels (1967). MARX (1818) is the person who stands for the rights of the working class. He talks about the people who are deprived of their legal rights. He revolts against the system which allows the rich to exploit the poor. Marxism is the opposite of the concept of capitalism. Capitalism is the system of economy founded upon the private possession of the resources of manufacture and circulation of things, categorized as the unrestricted inexpensive market and inspiration by profit. Whereas, Marxism is the structure of socialism based on the leading feature of public possession of the earnings of production, supply, and exchange.

### **Key concepts**

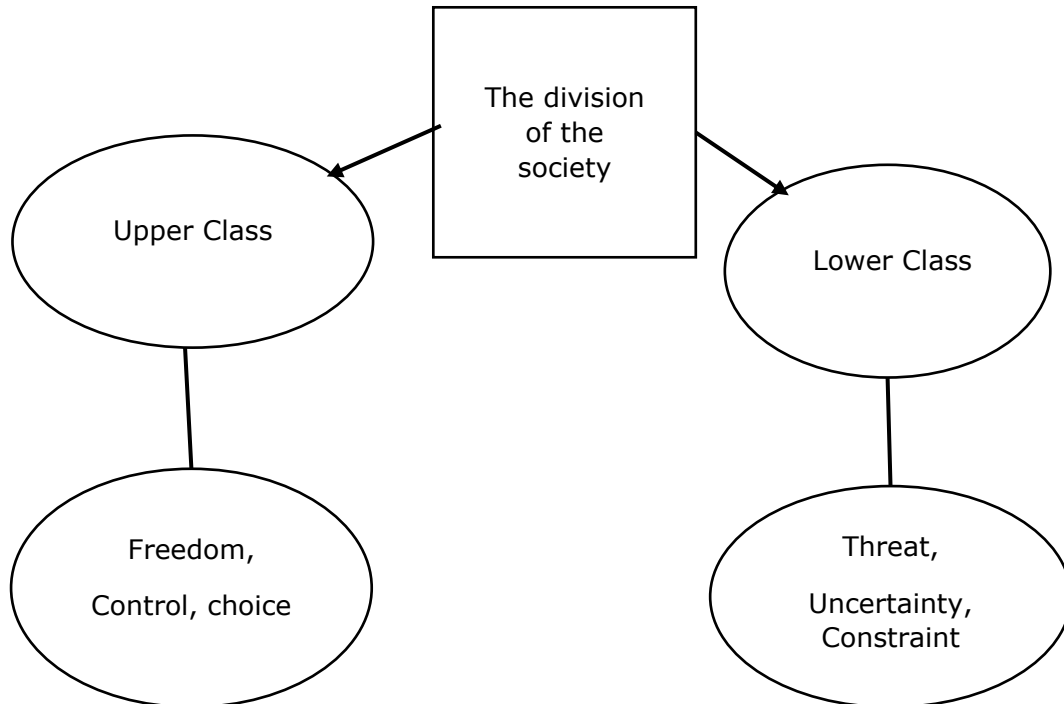
#### **The Bourgeoisie**

The Bourgeoisie represent the Capitalist class who have authority and the wealth. They hold the prolific services of society in hands that is called economic base by Marx. Land, factories, industries are called productive forces because these forces are employed to produce goods which is sold to gain profit. This class is not in majority.

#### **The Proletariat**

Other class of society is the lower class and Marx calls them "The Proletariat". They are in majority. They have no control over productive forces.

They are not allowed to sell the goods to gain profits. They just sell their man power by working. They work for the bourgeoisie and receive wages for their labour work. Ree (1997) maintains that the lower class is necessary for the survival of the state because the upper class rules all over the state and their this authority can be put to an end by constructing the society of masses (Sewell, 2000). The following diagram shows the status and division of both classes:



The above-mentioned diagram clearly presents the difference existed between two social classes. One class has every type of freedom, full control on all resources and departments of the country. They are free in selection of everything. Whereas, the other class is deprived one. This class always suffers from problems. They always remain in state of stress, danger and uncertainty.

### **The bourgeoisie want to collect heaps of wealth by exploiting the proletariat**

Marx explains that the bourgeoisie exploit the working class and collect heap of wealth. Their wealth increases and they keep on wealthier but on the other hand, the working class keeps on poorer and poorer. The association between these two classes is unequal because the capitalists are not willing to pay the workers according to the work. The capitalists gain high profit by selling goods produced by the labourers but workers are not paid according to the profit of the products. The variance between the both groups is considered as surplus value. That is why, Marx illustrates that the capitalists have fully control to extract surplus value from the worker. Owing to the extraction of surplus value, the capitalist class is only capable in collecting heaps of wealth at the expense of the proletariat. To Marx, in capitalistic society, Profit is essentially gathered due to the exploitation of workers.

### **The elites keep hold on all the institutions in society**

Marx elaborates that those who control the Economic Base also control the Superstructure. It means that those who are wealthy or have economic power can control the system of politics and other systems of society. Economic Base which is "The Mode of Production" is called the forces of production and these forces are lands, tools, machinery, raw materials utilized to produce goods, and services and the connections of production, social relations between people involved in the production of goods, service. The mode of production is made up by these. The superstructure of a society has culture, institutions, political power structures, roles, rituals, and state.

### **Ideology**

An ideology is a belief system and all systems are the products of cultural conditioning for Marxism. It is a set of values and ways of thinking through which people observe the world where they live. In a world, they accept some values without any doubt as truth and honesty etc. Marx maintains that the ruling classes use their authority over social institutions of society in order to get ideological supremacy over the way people think and act in society. Marx highlights that the notions of the ruling classes are seen as common sense and natural and thus unequal, exploitative relationships are accepted by the proletariat as the norm. It means that cabalistic society allows the upper class to rule and exploit the lower class as it is their natural right and to obey is the duty of lower class as it is the norm.

### **Literature review**

While expressing his views about this novel, Yaqoob (2010) says that "Moth Smoke" by Hamid divides the society into two clashes. According to him, it is the factor which makes the novel popular and it is the most obvious fact. The story of the undertaken study presents two pictures. One picture seems vulgar and deeper vital meaning is offered by the other picture. After observing the characters closely, the readers realize that characters are not the same which they pretend. They show different thing but in actual, the particular act stands for different meaning. It can be said that hidden meanings are there to perceive. Hamid tries to present the actual picture of society which is divided into two classes: upper class and lower class. Upper class is the blessed class of society and enjoy all facilities and other class is considered inferior. The factual picture of Pakistani society is portrayed by Hamid (2000) where upper class enjoys lavish lifestyle due to abundance of wealth whereas the lower class is deprived of basic needs of life. They struggle to survive in the society. They move from one place to another to get better opportunities but their efforts become futile. Hamid (2000) diagnoses the cause of this problem and reaches the conclusion that corruption is the main

disease of creating class gap in society. It has penetrated into the society and is cutting the very roots of the society by upsetting the balance of the society. From this point of view, it can be said that the dominant theme of Hamid's novel is corruption. Both groups of society have complex. Upper class is marked by superiority complex and lower class possesses inferiority complex. These complexes of both classes pave the way for corruption. There are different types of corruption: Social corruption, moral corruption, religious corruption and sexual corruption and all these can be observed in the novel.

It is narrated by Ahmed (2009) that Hamid has emerged as a prominent figure as he advocates the society and he has become the revolutionary voice of his age. The author severely criticizes the upper class of society, the class which is spreading the ideology of Pakistan. He raises his voice against the people who influence that social and political system of the country and exploits the down trodden since the birth of Pakistan.

The undertaken novel criticizes the autocratic and the rich. His novel presents the age from 1990's to 1998's. This era occupies a special place in the history of Pakistan as the successful experiments of Nuclear have been performed. In this age, the political and economic conditions were not stable. The existed Government was dismissed by army chief. A considerable change has been noticed in the political and social conditions of the country when this novel publishes. This novel begins in Lahore in May, 1998. It the critical time because both rival countries, Pakistan and India attempts to escalate their nuclear power. Both these countries are poor in term of economy. Poverty, crime, corruption, illiteracy, undue favouritism, gap between the rich and the poor etc. are the main problems of these nations. It is worth mentioning point that these problems are not merely the dilemma of Pak and India but these issues are faced by all the developing nations of the world who are poor.

The rulers are corrupt and indulge in heinous crimes. That is why, those suffering nations cannot flourish. So, in the disguise of Pakistani society, he presents all deprived communities where injustice, corruption and exploitation of the poor by the rich can be noticed. Due to bad governance, many governments have been changed with the passage of time. A famous Pakistan woman named Benazir Bhutto was killed. She had been selected the Prime minister of the country. After her death, independent elections have been conducted to elect true representatives of the country as a hope for the better future of the country as the whole people of suffering nations have. The subject of the state urge for the selection of honest and devoted leaders who work for the welfare of the country. They want the leaders who make and act upon laws instead to break them likewise the previous practices. History is witness that all deprived nations have same feelings. But they cannot select the honest and corruption free leaders to control the whole system of the society.

Corruption is the basic cause which creates many issues. It is responsible to divide the society into two section: the upper and lower. Hamid (2000) tries to

highlight this phenomenon of the society through his novel. All the characters of his novel represent the theory of Marxism presented by German philosopher, thinker and economist, Marx (1867). Zahir (2015) is of the opinion that Hamid (2000)'s characters reflects the effects of Marxism. What is Marxism? It is marked by class struggle, class distinction and class differences. These are basic attributes of human life and society that cannot be ignored.

The whole system of society including politics, religion, judiciary and economy etc. are controlled by the upper class. All systems assume the shape of flexibility that can be modified and changed according to the situation and persons. Rules change from person to person. Laws are made and even broken by the elites. The rules and system are strict for the poor. They are punished even for the crime which is not committed by them. Marx (1867) opines that authoritative class has power to module any system of society which they want. They believe in economic power. They consider themselves superior and that is why, it is their due right to achieve economic supremacy. Furthermore, he uses the term of "opiate the masses" for religion. He argues that having illegal sexual relations with female is the symbol of the social status. Hamid (2000) presents all these features in his novel. All characters are leading characters as each of them portrays any aspect of society through Marxism point of view. These characters share their experiences and sufferings of life realistically in the way that the feeling of sympathy, anger and hostility are created among readers accordingly.

Rahman (1991) opines that Hamid (2000) sheds light on the ups and downs of the society.

Two classes of society are presented by Hamid (2000) in this novel: upper and lower class. The upper class has heaps of wealth and the lower class has no money. Hamid (2000) introduces the characters of two young men namely, Ozi and Daru, one is the representative of upper and the other is the representative of the lower class of society. Hamid (2000) wants to convey the fact that the rich are corrupt. In the undertaken novel, the father of Ozi is shown as a corrupt leader. He enjoys luxurious life style. Whereas Daru is a poor person and his father died during early age. father is a corrupt politician and he had facilitated all the necessities of life. Daru's father died in very age. After the death of his father, Daru's family is looked after by Khurram who is his father's friend. Khurram looks after his friend family. Khurram has only son and a lot of wealth. Because of his wealth, he fulfils all his legal and illegal desires easily. Khurram and Daru's family have been living together in the same house since his childhood. So, it can be said that from very early stage, he suffers from complex being inferior.

Ozi is Daru's friend but because of class difference, no close, deep and sincere relation is developed between them. After seeing Ozi's luxurious house, Daru becomes upset and feels uncomfortable. Saleem (2015) elaborates that the novel of Hamid (2000) portrays the socio-economic strata of Pakistan and all social evils: corruption, class division, lower and upper, and brutality of extremely forces of the society are displayed by him in his masterpiece.



Mismatch communication between extremist generates disputes, complexes, dissimilarity, and unsuitability. Story narrates the story of a war of succession between great Mughal emperor Shah jahan and his sons in the beginning. The author skilfully elaborates the history in the novel by maintaining that Mughals lived in India from 1526 to 1858 A.D. This emperor gave special attention to art and architecture. Because of Emperor's attention, this art had been flourished in India. But in this novel, Mughal presents the encounter of three main character Dara shikoh (Daru), Aurangzeb (Ozi) and Mumtaz. Daru and Ozi are friends. But they are separated by class difference. Another factor also causes of their separation that is Mumtaz. She is the wife of Aurangzeb and loves another person.

### **Research methodology**

Research methodology is the pathway which enables the researchers how to conduct their research(Sileyew, 2019). It provides right direction for their study. It is science which helps in conducting research scientifically. The research conducted in a systematic way sorts out the research issue by logically implementing numerous steps. Methodology enables the researchers to interpret the products of scientific investigation along with the procedure itself. The core aim of Research Methodology is to define the methods and then analysis these methods. It clearly illustrates and explain the limitations and resources, illuminates their assumptions and significances linking their capabilities to the twilight zone at the frontiers of knowledge(Patel & Patel, 2019).

### **Nature of study**

Mohajan (2018) is of the opinion that a research method is a strategy of action that provides direction to organize research in a systematic and an efficient way. Creswell (2009) defines three approaches of research that is quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research. The undertaken research employs qualitative approach.

This type of research deals with quality. It examines the study of human behaviour. By employing this research, the body language, attitude, sentiments, feelings etc. can be found from the opposite person through observation. Where quantitative research does not work, qualitative research is used.(Patel & Patel, 2019).

The undertaken research utilizes the qualitative approach. The research procedure is carried out through textual analysis with the application of Marxism theory. The behaviour and experiences of the characters are analysed. the aim of the qualitative approach aims at providing the deeper interpretation of the research. In qualitative research design, the behaviours of the characters are assessed and analysis by using the method of Textual analysis.



### **Sample of this study**

A famous Pakistani literary English novel “Moth Smoke” by Hamid (2000) is selected for the sample of research. The behaviour of the characters will be discussed by keeping in view the Marxist theory as the undertaken novel is the reflection of the traditional society of Pakistan. All characters will be analysed according to some certain laws of nature. The undertaken research aims at exploring the social issues as corruption, illegitimate substitution, manipulation, deterioration and imperfection.

### **Themes of Study**

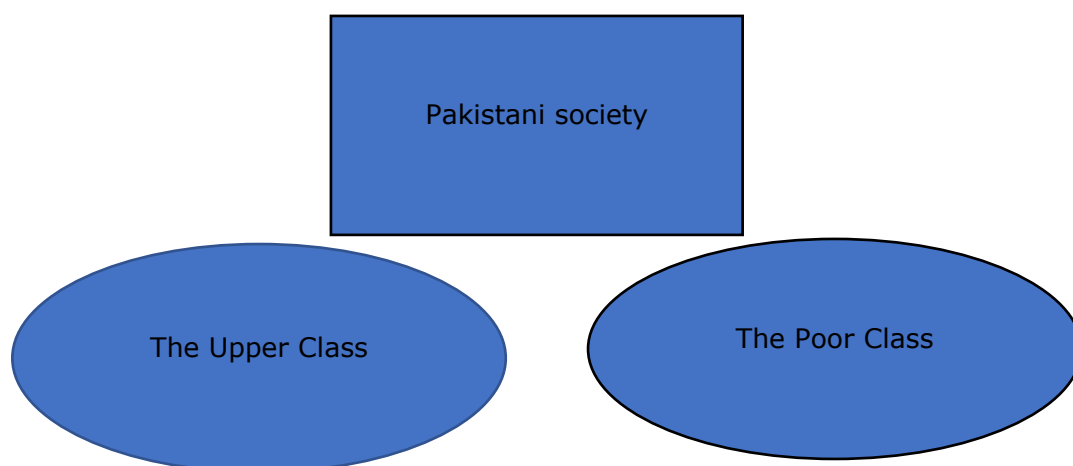
Hamid (2000) introduces many themes in the selected novel. These themes will be investigated by keeping in view the social perspectives. The authors have the following themes:

#### **Desire**

To achieve power, wealth and authority is the desire of all the people of Pakistani society. The upper-class desires to rule the country according to their wish. They want to collect heaps of wealth and exploit the poor. The poor also have desire to gain power to be equal to the rich. They want to get wealth through fair and unfair means.

#### **Class Division in society**

Societies of many nations are divided in to classes: The upper class and the lower class. Similarly, Pakistani society is divided into two classes which create between the poor and the rich. The following diagram shows the division of people:



The above-mentioned diagram shows the division of people into two groups. The rich class is blessed and enjoy all facilities of life whereas the poor have no wealth and are unable to meet their basic needs of life.

### **Power, Greed and lust**

Other theme which is found in Hamid (2000) novel that is power, greed and lust. He discussed that society is characterized by these elements. All these elements are reflected through the behaviour of the undertaken novel. The rich class have power and authority. Ozi represents the rich class. He is not punished because of power and wealth even though he has committed a crime of murder. The character of Daru represents the poor. He has greed and lust. Because of greed, he involves in heinous crime of drugs.

### **Betrayal**

Hamid (2000) maintains that betrayal and disloyalty is the trait of elite class. As is shown by the character of Ozi's wife. She is the wife of Ozi but establishes unfair relation with Ozi's friend.

### **Jealousy**

Jealousy is highlighted by Hamid (2000) in this novel . He states that in Pakistani society, the element of jealousy is observed. He explores that division is the major cause of creating this evil. The poor become jealous while observing the life style of the elites. As Daru is feeling jealousy after seeing Ozi big house. He feels uncomfortable.

### **Obsessive love**

The feeling of love and being loved exists in the society as it is human nature and the part of human behaviour. This aspect of human behaviour is reflected through the characters of Daru and Ozi's wife. Daru and Ozi's wife are infatuated. Under these feelings, they establish unfair relation.

### **Corruption**

Corruption is the evil that has prevailed in Pakistani society as is highlighted by Hamid (2000) in the undertaken novel. There are many kinds of corruption: moral, social and religious. The character of the undertaken novel shows this evil. Corruption is found in upper as well lower class. Daru, Ozi's father and other characters are corrupt in their own way.

### **Drug**

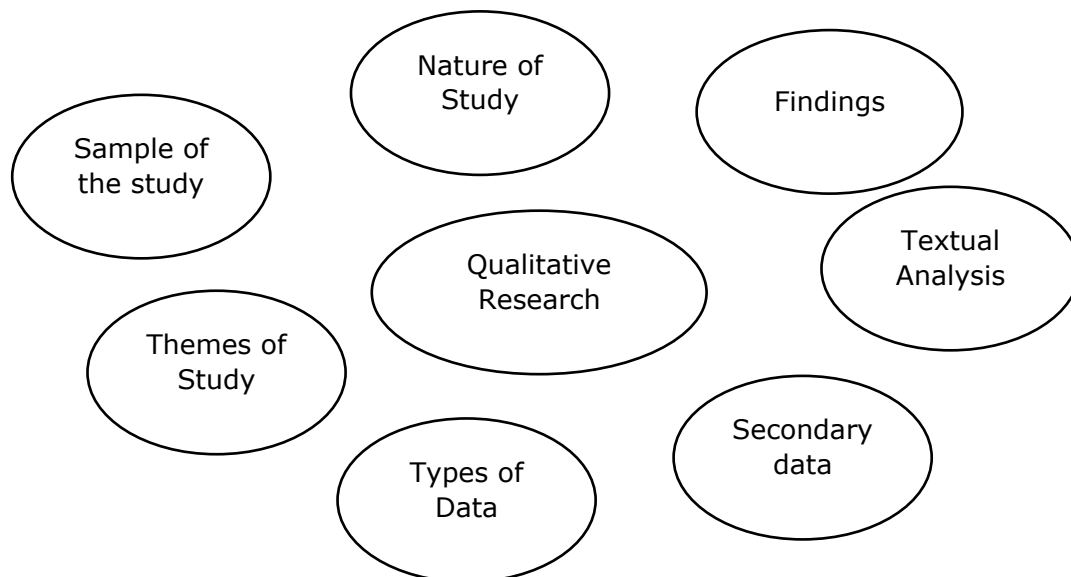
Evil of drug is another theme which Hamid (2000) tries to explore . Daru is selling drugs to the rich members of the society. Selling drug is considered very serious crime not in Pakistan but also in all the countries of the world because it creates negative impact and ruins the future of Youngsters. Their health is damaged and they become taboo. But to get money, the poor do not bother this aspect and sell it.

## Money

The theme of money and wealth is prevailing in the novel. Hamid (2000) tries to present the real picture of society. Both the poor and the rich want to get wealth. The rich have heaps of wealth whereas the poor have no wealth.

## Type of Data

Data involve collection of ideas and information. There are two kinds of Data: primary and secondary Data. Secondary data will be employed in the conducted research. Published books, research journals, magazine, newspaper and relevant books etc. provide Secondary data. The validity, and authenticity of research is enhanced due to secondary data. To fulfil this process, hard and soft type of data is required. The following diagram shows the whole procedure of the research.



## Textual analysis

Air-conditioner in the undertaken novel represents the material luxuries, massive power of purchase, and industrial commodities which is the birth right of the rich. Hamid (2000) sheds light on the social and moral evils faced by the people of Pakistan in the modern era. Two classes are found in this society. One is upper class which is called air-conditioned class. This class has all facilities whereas other class is lower class who are unable to meet their basic needs. This class is called non air conditioned. Both classes try to achieve their desires. The upper class wants to maintain their authority and the lower class wants to get money likewise the rich. The poor are in majority whereas the rich are a few. The upper class is much smaller but has fully control over rules, economy and laws. They are regarded as elites. They have every right to exploit the poor for their benefits. This class does not only enjoy privileges but also involves in corruption. Hamid (2000) endeavours

to reveal that gap existed between the poor and the rich. For this purpose, he introduces two characters, Daru and Ozi. Daru belongs to the lower class and Ozi represents the elites. Ozi enjoys the luxurious life style and gets higher education from abroad. He has beautiful big house and Mitshubi Pajero. Mumtaz is a beautiful lady and is ozi's wife. Like all the people of upper class, she is also corrupt. She is corrupt morally. She is wife of Ozi but has secret love affair with Daru. She works as an investigative journalist secretly under the pseudonym of Zulifikar Manto. A true picture of men and women who are entangled between two worlds. The poor suffer from inferiority complex because they have no facilities and authority as the rich have. This thing creates a sense of insecurity and jealousy among them. As it is observed in the novel that Daru is the friend of rich person Ozi, he has jealousy for his friend and wants to get the same status to enjoy life as Ozi.

The undertaken novel explores the social and moral evils faced by modern societies especially Pakistan society. The class gap is beautifully highlighted through the behaviour of the characters. The elites exploit the rich and have a lot of wealth. Owing to a lot of wealth, they are still in struggle to gather more and more wealth using every illegal means. They hold control on the resources of the country. It is their right to order and use all the machinery of the country according to their needs. All lucrative jobs and opportunities are for the rich and they are termed as elite. Whereas the second class is in majority and does not meet their basic needs of life. It is their birth right to obey the rich. They are destined to fight all their life to achieve secure future and, in this effort, mostly they fail. The word masses are used for this class. All blessings and facilities are enjoyed by the elites and they feel pride in breaking laws. They consider themselves superior to laws. They believe that laws are made for the poor to act upon. The upper class exploits the treats the poor badly. This vast difference and gap cause the feeling of deprivation among the poor. The discrimination arises the sense of anger and depression among the masses. These feeling excite them to stand for securing the same position that allows the rich to enjoy life. They refuse to survive in this state alienation, and unequal distribution of wealth. Their this struggle gives birth confrontation between the two. Hamid (2000) skilfully shows this confrontation exists within Pakistani society in this modern era. It can be argued that the author tries to run this confrontation as a lively force throughout the novel.

The rich do not like the poor and also try to insult them. In the same way, the poor do not like the rich and criticize them according to their position. In the novel, Ozi is criticized by Daru. He uses the phrase "the son of a corrupt father and the readers get idea that his father is corrupt person. Ozi is sent to abroad to get higher education which is status symbol. This thing enhances Daru's feeling of severe anger and jealousy for Ozi. Daru is more brilliant than Ozi but he remains in Pakistan to study because his family couldn't send him abroad for education.

The following quote spoken by Daru elaborates:

"Ozi's dad, the frequently investigated but as yet incarcerated  
Federal secretary (retired Khuram Shah...."

Another example of class difference is observed from the vehicles possessed by Ozi and Daru. This comparison of cars actually shows the Contrast between masses and elite. Daru's small Suzuki car represents his poverty which has nervous cough whereas Ozi has land cruiser which gates shuts with a deep thud automatically. His bullet proof and costly vehicle represents the elites. He can drive carelessly and fast on road without any care for traffic rules and regulation. He has even no care for the lives of the people walking on road because he has license to crush the people relentlessly owing to Pajero. Actually, it is the typical thinking of the rich as they consider that to break the laws is their natural right. They are allowed to do anything which they want. Nobody can ask them and they are no answerable to any department. By using this right, Ozi drives his car carelessly and kills a boy on the road. The killing of the boy is revealed as the novel progresses. He describes the social class and special privilege is highlighted by Ozi in the novel by the following quote:

"I am a wealthy, well connected, and successful ... Lahore is a tough place if you are not an important person".

This quotes clearly shows the thinking of the rich in form of Ozi. Hamid (2000) argues that successful people are those who are wealthy and good connection with wealthy people. Talent, hard work and ability have no value if you person has no wealth and considerable connections. These things are necessary to get success in life and through Ozi's character, he reveals this actual picture of the Pakistani society.

By observing this injustice and discrimination, Daru becomes over ambitious and he decides to secure the lavish life style using all fair and unfair means. He makes firm decision to get wealth and make well connections with the elites. That is why, he makes sexual relations with Mumtaz, wife of Ozi. As the novel starts, the readers find that he is doing a job in a bank but because of his misconduct and behaviour, he is dismissed from his job. Now he is jobless. He has acute desire to gain his job again. He wants his job to afford the expenses of air conditioner. He applies for the job in many companies. He has no connections with rich people. That is why, his application uses as a tissue paper. He has bright academic record but academic record fails to give him good job. He got rejection from every company. Firstly, he got job because of connection with Khurram Shah who is wealthy friend of Daru father. Daru reveals this fact to Murad in the following words:

"Murad Badshah asks me, how my job search is going on,  
'Badly they want foreign qualifications of MBA. He takes  
a hit 'How did you get your previous job? 'Through a family friend.."

The above mentioned quote shows that the poor having bright academic record cannot gain good job. Inform of Murad Shah, Hamid (2000) introduces the character who could not get a job even having Masters degree in English Literature. When he did not find job, he stars driving Rickshaw. He believes in labour to earn money and considers Ac's unnatural and harmful. The air

conditioned have special privilege to enjoy parties and they are involved in all heinous activities like corruption and using drugs. They indulge in having illegal sexual affairs. They do crimes and break laws. They are not punished by the law for the crimes they commit. The law does not arrest them. Their hands are always clean in the book of law. Hamid (2000) elaborates this fact in the following words spoken by:

“As I roll a joint, couples argue and kiss.....several people chat on their mobiles”

Hamid (2000) reveals the difference and discrimination which has been penetrated into the educational system of Pakistani modern society. Class difference is observed even in educational system. Brilliant poor students lag behind and weak rich students excel. The rich students are sent for higher education in UK and USA etc but brilliant poor students remain in their country and cannot get the opportunities of getting further education in abroad. The rich families send their children abroad to get education as a status symbol. Daru could not go USA and after getting education, starts working in a bank with the help of his father’s friend. But after losing his job, he tries hard to get another job but he fails. After this failure, he starts selling the charas, hash and drugs. He wants to secure future. He indulges in heinous crime of selling drug just for earning money. He sells drugs to the rich. He provides charas to a big federal family person, Shuja. Shuja’s father becomes aware of this matter. He catches Daru and beats him severely. Daru does not say anything because he knows it is a wild goose chase to fight with him. Hamid (2000) reflects the thinking of the poor that they remain silent when they are attempted to kill by the rich. They know that it is wisdom to shut their mouths because nobody will hear them. Laws makers are laws breakers. This bitter reality of Pakistani society is reflected by Daru’s conversation with doctor in the following words:

“Who did this to you? The doctor asks. Auto accident,  
‘I say. He shakes his head”

Hamid (2000) says that the elites have not care for the poor even they do not take any pain after killing them. To kill the masses is the minor incident for them. For this crime, they are not answerable and arrested by the laws. This callous behaviour of elites towards the lower class is revealed through the character of Ozi. Ozi shows no care and concern when a boy is hit by his Pajero and killed while driving rashly. At this time, Daru is with Ozi and witnesses all the accident. Ozi dislikes because people having smaller vehicles come on road. He does not show respect to traffic law and gives no importance to traffic lights. Daru is the witnesses the whole accident. Red light turns on but Ozi does not stop and cuts too close-by a boy on a bicycle. The boy does not maintain his balance and is hit by Ozi’s land cruiser. Ozi shows no concern and fears. After seeing the callous behaviour of Ozi, Daru feels jealous and takes a kind of revenge by engaging himself in illicit affairs with his beautiful but unfaithful wife Mumtaz.

Another conflict can be observed in form of maintenance of servants. The elites get managed their servants easily as they want and are in a position to give them handsome salary. Whereas the masses cannot handle their servants. This fact is portrayed by Mannucci who is the servant of Daru. Until Daru gives him salary, he remains a good servant but when he stops his salary, Mannucci becomes disrespectful and leaves the job.

“Mannucci is gone. My own servant has left me, left because of my little slap.

That boy has better pray I never see him again. To think that I fed him sheltered him, for all these years, and this is his loyalty, his gratitude.”

Throughout the novel, the readers can find that Daru falls while as his rival Ozi rises. Ozi is the production of that class where generators and air conditioners are considered the essential part of life (MALIK, 2017). The upper class also ridicules the lower class to show off their superiority as is revealed by the following quote spoken by Ozi to Daru:

“You need a generator...how can you survive without one?

Daru’s reaction is, ‘Ah! Ozi you just can’t resist; can you?

You know I can’t afford a generator.”

### **Significance of the title “Moth Smoke” from Marxist perspective**

The reviewers of the novel have perceived differently the vital metaphor in the title of the story, ‘moth smoke’. Hamid (2000) introduces Daru, Ozi and Mumtaz whose destructive actions are the moths in the undertaken novel but it is argued by the researchers that while paying attention to them, the readers must keep in mind the candle and its burning which becomes source of providing light in absence of electricity. The term like ‘Laltain’ and ‘Mombatti’ are highly expressive. They are suggestive in the way that these two terms not only provide light but also become source of burning other lights. Th Laltain is well fed and well protected. Laltain can burn even in blowing wind. The blowing wind cannot easily put it out because it is protected by glass. Whereas, the candle can easily put out because it has not glass protection around. Therefore, through these beautiful connotations, the author has attempted to create in us the feeling of pity and fear within us for the Mombatties. They are stand for the downtrodden and defenceless people of Hamid (2000)’s society.

### **Conclusion**

Hamid (2000) attempts to reveal the social aspects of the society. The undertaken novel sheds light on the system of crime and justice from the perspective of developing society. This society is characterized by three aspects of law: to make the law, to break the law and the reaction towards the breaking of law. The novel skilfully presents all the evils and crimes committed by both the rich and the poor according to their approach. Hamid (2000) not only explore these



serious issues but also maintains that they are creating hurdles in the progress of the country. Lack of concern, inadequate distribution of wealth, moral and social corruption, and injustice are the characteristics highlighted by Hamid (2000) and also presents the treatment in an energetic manner to eradicate them from society (MALIK, 2017).

A great social inequality can be found in Pakistani society. By keeping in view all circumstances, it becomes imperative for the thinkers, writers and intellectuals to present the real picture of the society by developing responses to what is happening in the Pakistani society through their works. A good piece of literature always answers the questions which are unquestioned. It is the beauty of Quality literature. And these unasked questions are reflections of the basic questions of life. Hamid (2000) beautifully has proved successful in fulfilling his responsibility. Through this novel, he has illustrated all the evils faced by Pakistani society through the characters of his novel. Hamid (2000) tries for better improvement in the country through his work. For the progress of society, this class difference should be minimized. In this regard, Ree (1997) opines that Proletariat is the requirement of the state due to some reasons. The state needs them to strike down the confrontation of the exploiters and other reason is to produce active labourers for communism. Hamid (2000) states that the lower class can diminish the exploitation of the elites if they endeavour collectively.

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