

In the Story "Garden Party" Through Agoronym Analysis of the Image Of Society

Hikmatova Nigina Akmalovna

Teacher of the Department of English Language and Literature

Bukhara state pedagogical institute

hikmatovanigina@gmail.com

Abstract. *The Garden Party* is one of Katherine Mansfield's most famous short stories, masterfully exploring themes such as human emotions, social stratification, and the importance of appearance through the simple moments of life. The main character of the story, Laura, is preparing to organize a lavish party with her partners, but in the process, she thinks more deeply about the differences between different layers of society.

In the course of the article, through this story, how the author expressed the contradictions between the inner world and external conditions, and how important qualities such as humanity and sincerity are. It also speaks to Mansfield's unique style and skill in detailing the story's relevance for modern readers

Key words: *Social stratification, Class distinction, Human emotions, Symbolism, Contrast, Inequality, Death and life, Social ethics, Modernist literature*

Introduction

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Enter. First published in 1922, Catherine Mansfield's short story "The Garden Party" is one of the famous examples of modernist literature. The story focuses on themes related to class consciousness, social ethics, and the transitory nature of life. It depicts the wealthy Sheridan family preparing for a lavish garden party.

The story's brief plot follows Laura, the young daughter of the Sheridan family, as she helps prepare for the garden party. While the preparations are underway, Laura meets a worker living in a nearby cottage who is unhappy. She hears that her husband has died in an accident. She

believes that the party should be canceled out of respect for the deceased, but her concerns are dismissed by her family. Despite her initial discomfort, Laura becomes enthralled by the party. After the event, Laura's mother gives her leftovers to take to her grieving family. When Laura visits the cottage and sees the body of a dead man, she is struck by the profound silence and peace of death. The story shows how Laura expresses her feelings in an unknown situation, and this feeling ends when she returns home.

Methodology

The methodology of this study employs a qualitative approach, focusing on textual analysis of Katherine Mansfield's *The Garden Party*. This method allows for an in-depth exploration of the themes of class distinction, social stratification, and the contrast between life and death, as reflected in the story's language and symbolism. The study relies on literary analysis to examine how Mansfield constructs meaning through imagery, indirect speech, and character interactions. A particular emphasis is placed on the portrayal of Laura's transformation as she navigates the tensions between privilege and empathy. The research incorporates a close reading of key passages that highlight Mansfield's use of agoronyms and their symbolic function in differentiating the worlds of the privileged Sheridans and the working-class community. Additionally, the study applies a socio-linguistic perspective to analyze the depiction of social hierarchies and how they are reinforced or challenged through dialogue and narrative structure. Secondary sources, including previous literary critiques and linguistic studies, provide theoretical support to interpret Mansfield's stylistic choices. The thematic framework considers the story's modernist elements, examining how its fragmented narrative and shifting perspectives contribute to the reader's understanding of class consciousness. The qualitative approach ensures that the nuances of character development and symbolic settings, particularly the contrast between the luxurious garden and the impoverished cottage, are critically assessed. Through this methodological lens, the study seeks to uncover the deeper social commentaries embedded in *The Garden Party* and its relevance to contemporary discussions on social inequality and privilege.

Results and Discussion

The themes of the story can be grouped as follows:

1. Class distinction. The story highlights the social divide between the wealthy Sheridans and the working-class families living nearby. The Sheridans' casual denial of the death of a working-class man reflects their privileged position and lack of empathy for those outside their social circle.
2. Life ephemeral nature. The contrast between the lively garden night and the deathly silence reminds us of the transient nature of life.
3. Innocence and Experience: Laura's visit to the deceased's house in the story can be seen as a coming-of-age moment in which she confronts the harsh realities of life and death.
4. Style and Structure Mansfield's story is notable for its subtlety and free use of indirect speech, which allows readers to see the world through Laura's eyes. The story is notable for its vivid imagery and attention to emotional detail, especially in its depiction of the garden and banquet setting.

The Garden Feast is often regarded as one of Mansfield's finest works. It demonstrates her mastery of the complexity of human experience in a simple narrative. In Katherine Mansfield's *The Garden Party*, the garden is described in rich and vivid detail, emphasizing its beauty and the sense of luxury that surrounds the Sheridan family. The garden is central to the story, representing both the family's wealth and the idealized, sheltered world in which they live. The story uses the following as a basis for describing the Garden:

1. The path and the vibrant scenery. The garden is described as full of vibrant colors. The lawn is described as "an ideal place for a garden party," and the flowers, especially roses, are abundant and perfectly grown. Roses are called "the best roses in the world," emphasizing their beauty and the care taken to maintain them.

2. Sunlight and Atmosphere. The garden is bathed in sunlight, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. The sun is described as "slanting" and "falling" into the garden. . This gives it an idyllic and almost dreamlike quality.

3. A sense of order and perfection. Everything in the garden is in its place, neatly organized. This reflects the Sheridan family's desire to maintain control and order in their lives, as well as their social status.

4. Exotic plants. The presence of "lilies" and "cannas" that are not native to the area suggests a sense of exoticism and luxury. These plants contribute to the idea of the garden as a space of wealth and privilege, separate from the everyday world.

5. Marquee. A marquee, or large tent, is set up on the lawn for the garden party. It is described as a "wonderful cream marquee" that looks like "a slice of wedding cake." This comparison adds to the festive, party-like atmosphere of the garden, while also hinting at the superficiality of the event.

The symbolism of the garden is also particularly significant in the story. For example, the garden in *The Garden Party* represents the Sheridans' sheltered, privileged world. It is a place of beauty and elegance, but at the same time, it is cut off from the harsher realities of life, such as death and poverty. The contrast between the idyllic garden and the nearby cottages, where working-class families live, highlights the story's theme of class division. The garden also represents Laura's innocence and her early naivety. As she moves from the garden to the deceased's summer house, she is transformed and confronted with the complexities and inequalities of the world outside her sheltered environment.

Conclusion

The analysis of *The Garden Party* reveals the intricate interplay between social stratification, personal transformation, and symbolic representation, particularly through the lens of agoronyms and spatial contrast. The findings highlight how Katherine Mansfield effectively juxtaposes the luxurious, sheltered existence of the Sheridan family with the stark realities of the working-class community, underscoring themes of privilege, empathy, and the fleeting nature of life. Laura's journey serves as a microcosm of social awareness, illustrating the tension between innocence and experience as she confronts the complexities of class distinctions. The study's implications extend to contemporary discussions on societal hierarchies and linguistic representation in literature, demonstrating how Mansfield's modernist narrative techniques continue to shape literary discourse on class consciousness. Furthermore, the use of indirect speech and vivid imagery in the story emphasizes the subtle yet powerful ways in which language reinforces social divisions. Future research could expand on this analysis by comparing Mansfield's approach to other modernist writers or exploring how agoronyms function in different literary contexts to reflect social and cultural dynamics. Additionally, an interdisciplinary perspective incorporating sociolinguistics and discourse analysis could provide deeper insights into the role of language in shaping perceptions of class and identity.

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