

The Unfulfilled Desire in Eugene O'Neill's " *Desire Under
The Elms*": A Critical Study

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Abstract

Desire Under the Elms is one of the significant American plays that sheds lights on the importance of dream and desire for the Americans at that time . O'Neill draws his characters carefully trying to show their aims to reach their goals and desires. O'Neill builds his drama in an expressionistic and realistic mood to highlight their blind search for fulfilling their plans and intentions.

The current paper tackles three main characters of the play entitled " Desire Under The Elms" because the other characters have less or no significant role in comparison with the main three characters. The paper is divided into three parts according to the importance of the characters. The researcher is going to analyze , evaluate and elaborate the behaviours , the motives and the actions of each of these characters reaching his aim which is to determine which desire is severely violated and unfulfilled. Each of the characters has his own deadening desires that triggers his mind and heart to follow. According to the paper the father's new wife who is the lover of her step son is the one whose desire is ruthlessly destroyed and unachieved because of her eagerness and incestuous appetite to capture each and everything which is of course impossible . She would lose her son , her husband and everything she dreams of to be under her possession for the sake of her lover.

Key Words: unfulfilled desire, possession, revenge, eagerness

Introduction

Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) draws his personae according to their real presentations and existence. So, he deals with ordinary common people to convey his message. Nair (1997: 349) pinpoints that Eugene O'Neill is highly interested in what he calls the "soul" of America. He sketches people of different ranks of society as in his debut plays which were about the lives of the sailors. The message which he tries to say is that people are struggling to live peacefully to the degree that they are obliged to kill each other to reach at their goals. His geniality is highly considered and evaluated for dealing with modern people's disaster that is fulfilling their plans and this is one of the demerits of the twentieth century. The family relationships are loose and the societal connections are not easily allowed.

The drama of *Desire Under The Elms*, henceforth it is abbreviated into DUTE, is penned in 1924 to expose the need of modern man, regardless of his age, to prove his ability to work, marry and bring a child up. To reach his goal, Mr. Cabot, as an American man, marries a girl half of his age who, in turn, wants to secure her life but she fails. She falls head over heel in love with his son. The father's need is thwarted by his son's desire to revenge his murdered mother. So, the drama shows the corrupted values of modern human society and the changing of his principles.

Desire is defined by Hornby, Cowie and Gimson (1974: 234) as "strong longing; earnest wish, long for; wish to have to get something. While Diggings (2007:4) defines the word desire as the following "it can mean the need for social recognition, the urge to escape society, the greed for piece of property, the lust for another's body or the genuine romantic attraction to another person and the need for avenging injustice."

1- Ephraim Cabot's Unfulfilled Desire:

Ranald (2007:18) points that O'Neill seeks to solve the problem of evil by clarifying what modern men have always found to be the base of tragedy – the courageous affirmation of life in the face of individual

defeat. So, he deals with the tragedy of the Cabots to stand for the life struggle in the Modern Age. Tilak (2009:213) depicts Mr. Cabot as being a man at the middle of the seventies , tall, sinewy and despondent , wiry and powerful with a stoop shoulder. His countenance is complex as if it were made out of hewn of a boulder, his face has the expression of being resentful and defensive. His eyes are small, close together, and extremely near sighted, blinking in effort to focus on objects. Nimavat and Nimavat (2001:159) further describe Mr. Cabot who has an ingrowing quality . He is dressing in his dismal black Sunday suit. Manuel (1997:105) sees that Cabot is a monster of pride , snobbishness and properties. He believes that he is superior to his sons, his late wives and the years of the age. Patterson (2007:112) expounds Mr. Cabot's behaviour as being a twice-widowed man. He is a tough Puritan . He has transformed the stony field into a flourishing fine farm. Tilak (2011:236) adds that Mr. Cabot has the pitiful longing of a man to found his own heaven here on the earth by glutting his sense of power with ownership of land, people and money.

Cabot: [looks after him with a scornful pity]. Soft-headed. Like his maw. Dead spit 'n' image. No hope in him! [he spits with contemptuous disgust .] a born fool! [then matter of factly] waal – I'm gittin' peckish .

[he goes toward door.]

(P.24)

Hamilton (2010:55) elaborates more the domestic affairs of Cabot saying that he has two late wives and three sons. The youngest of his sons believes that the land in which they all live lawfully belongs to his late mother. Mr. Cabot intends to renew his life by cementing new liaisons with women. The worst is that he brings a wife in the middle of his age to prove that he has the ability to work and love. This deed infuriates his youngest son because he thinks that he is the legitimate heir of the land which his father would grant to another wife for having a baby from her.

Mr. Cabot's desire to persuade his sons of his trends and ways of saving money urges him to cant . He always visits Min ,the town whore, to fulfill his sexual desire. Lall (2008:276) assures the idea that Mr. Cabot is a religious man. Tilak (2009: 214) elaborates the bad features of Mr. Cabot's behaviour. He is an odd , a buffon, an old miser and lecherous. He always justifies his sins by quoting suitable verses from the Bible. Diggings (2007: 98) opines that Cabot tries to control and submit

his sons seeing that the farm is his rightful domain. So, he seeks to increase his possession by subduing them under the will of his power. Mr. Cabot has the warring desire to fulfill his aim by getting a new wife and a new child to frighten his son and give the impression that he still has the ability to renew and revivify his life. Manuel (1997:108) focuses on the main themes of the play referring that the salient themes of the play are incest, infanticide, love, revenge and fateful retribution. O'Neill delineates his major character to convey the main themes of the play that he molds a father of a very bad behaviour and destructive lust and greed, the weak son who procrastinates his revenge and succumbs to his late mother's orders and also to follow the sexual needs of his step mother and the adulterous wife who murders her infant son for the sake of incestuous lover. The whole family is inundated by family dysfunction and greed which is the main pivot of the oeuvre.

The deadening aim of Mr. Cabot becomes urgent when he succumbs his sons to an intolerable degree under his will and power. Agrawal (2010:23) mentions that Mr. Cabot seeks to establish a new life to show his sons that he is full of vitality and happiness and he is neither in need for their help nor depends on them to plant the farm and to do their domestic affairs. Ranald (2000:66) sheds light on Mr. Cabot's life as a newly married man and an experienced farmer when he tells his wife of his intention to extend his farm by planting the stony lands rather than living in the fertile farm.

Cabot glorifies the importance of his work to flourish this farm saying:

This hain't wuth nothin' t' Me. Git ye back t' hum!.

I got afreed o' that voice an' I lit out back t' take

'em. Ay-eh. I actooly give up what was rightful mine!

God's hard, not easy! God's in the stones! Build my church

on a rock – out o' stones an' I'll be in them. That's what he

meant t' Peter! [He sighs heavily- a pause] Stones. I picked

'em up an' piled 'em into walls. Ye kin read the years o' my

life in them walls, every day a hefted stone, climbin' over the
hills up and down, fencing in the fields that was mine, whar I'd made
thin's grow out o' nothin'- like the will o' God, like the sevant at His hand. It
wa'n't easy. It was hard an' He made me hard fur it. (P.24)

His feelings springs out just like his farm in spring season. He is
ready to apply his plan to tease his sons and prove himself in front of his
family and neighbours. He searches for rebirth, redemption which yields
life its meaning . His identity becomes part of his farm and his soul is
mixed and melted with the sand and stones of his farm.

Blades (2011: 161) believes that the past of the family drives a sick
present which in turn cannot lead to a healthy and happy future. Mr.
Cabot's eldest sons are paid by their youngest brother to leave the farm
and they leave to California searching for their desire which is the gold.
Eben, the youngest son, determines to live with his father hoping that he
would pay his father back for the pain of his deceased mother. She is
overworked by his father till she dies . Manuel (1997:108) further shows
the difference of Mr. Cabot's life after his third marriage. He promises to
grant the whole land for his newly married wife if only she brings him a
child. The hope of Mr. Cabot to have a new child is looked down by his
third son Eben.

Abbie: (suddenly) mebbe the Lords 'll give us a son.

Cabot: (turns and stares at her eagerly) ye mean – a son –t' me 'n' yew?

Abbie: (with a cajoling smile) ye're a strong ma

Yet, hain't ye? Tain't nowadays impossible, be it?

We know that. Why d' ye stare so?

Hain't ye never thought o' that a fore?

I been thinkin' o' it all along, Ay- eh- an' I been prayin'

It'd happen, too.

Cabot: (his face growing full of joyous pride and a sort of religious
ecstasy). Ye been prayin', Abbie? – fur a son? – t' us? (P. 29)

Cabot's hope now matches Abbie's desire to have a babe. She cheats her husband and makes him believe that she conceives his child. The truth is that the father of her child is not her husband but her lover. The worst is that Mr. Cabot's hope to have a new son is discouraged by his wife who wants to inherit the farm but of course without giving a child for such an ageing man. So, she begins to seduce her son-in-law. She intrigues with her step son Eben to cheat and betray her husband. Tilak (2009: 178) sides with Mr. Cabot who exposes his hilarious jubilation in front of his family and neighbours the very moment his new son comes. He thinks that his ambitions come true, but, the event turns the table upside down and the truth is exposed when his son tells him about the real father of the child with admission of his wife.

Sahu (1991: 163) thinks that Mr. Cabot intends to rule, succumb and control each and everything: the land, many wives, and obedient sons but Mr. Cabot's needful desires are murdered and aborted by his family members. His hope is thwarted by his wife and his son who cooperate to destroy the old man's desire to prove himself in front of his sons, wife and neighbours. So, he feels embittered both for losing everything in his life on the one hand and the betrayal of his son and wife who stab his back, on the other hand. His aim and desire is felt by his family to be far-reaching to be fulfilled and impossible to be reached at. He intends to persuade his sons of the importance of the work he has done to satisfy them to follow him but none of his sons did accomplish his desire. Lall (2008: 280) believes that Mr. Cabot is an ostracized and eccentric man admits to his new wife his plan to punish his fleeing sons that

I could, in my dyin' hour, I'd set afire an' watch it burn – this
 House an' every ear o' corn an' every tree down t' the last blade
 O' hay! I'd sit an' know it was all a- dying with me an' no one else'-
 D ever own what was mine, what I made out o' nothin' with my
 Sweat 'n' blood. 'cepting the cows. Them I'd turn free. (P. 38)

And as Kobernick (1989: 68) discusses one of the main important themes of O'Neill's *Desire Under The Elms* is punishment and revenge. So, Mr. Cabot is punished and revenged against by the closest members of his family. His desire is severely crushed and painfully

destroyed and unattained. He is obliged to live a life of complete solitude.

At the end of the drama, Mr. Cabot is left alone because all his sons have departed him to get rid of his rigidity. Mr. Cabot is a man of deeds and there is no place for emotions in his life. Now, he is suffering of being neglected by all his family members and of course all his aims are unfulfilled and left unfinished.

2 - Eben's Unfulfilled Desire:

Eben is the third son of Mr. Cabot and his second dead wife's only son. He is twenty five years old this means that he is at the prime of his youth. He has many desires and aim to fulfill through his life . The dearest of these desires is to retaliate his dead mother from his merciless father . He wants to retrieve his mother's land which is illegitimately captured by his father.

Hamilton (2010: 55) clarifies Eben's personality as the following: he is looked down by his step brothers Peter and Simon who repeatedly show the similarity between Eben and their father. They emphasize the idea that Eben is the identical copy of their father. However, he many times refers to his hate and disrespect for his father for many reasons. He has a very dear wish that is to pay his father back for the sins and wrongs he committed in the past for his victimized wife, Eben's mother.

Nair (1997:351) mentions that Eben crosses the border of respect when he steals the money that his father hides to pay his brothers and persuade them leave the farm. Berlin (1982:75) pinpoints that Eben must rebel against his father for the wrongs of the past. The disastrous thing Eben makes is when he trespasses his father's orders and establishes an incestuous liaison with his step mother. The worst is that he has a child from her.

Barlow (2004: 168-172) states that Eben lives in a severe inner conflict and his way is not obvious because he is nurtured by his late mother's spirit which flies and lurks not only in Eben's room but also in the whole farm. He feels that he is not only haunted by his dead mother's soul but he is also chased by his step mother's wanting desire to have sex with him. At last , he is forced to give in to his step mother who succeeds

not only to satisfy him to reduce the importance of his mother's soul ,but to succumb him to her sexual needs.

Robinson (2007: 96-102) opines that Eben's hope to retaliate against his father's bad treatment for his late mother and stealing her farm stimulates him to accept and submit to his step mother's forbidden desires.. he gives up to Abbie's seduction to break the very heart of his father .

I don't take t' ye! I hate the sight o' ye! " Why Abbie asks ;

Did you kiss me back, "Why was yer lips burnin' ? " later on,

She seduces him saying that the sun burns upon nature, " making

Thin's grow – bigger 'n' bigger- burning inside ye ! grow bigger –

Like a tree – like them elms" Nature' ll beat ye ," and so it does,

As " their lips . meet in fierce , bruising kiss. (P. 27)

Tilak (2011:218-219) enhances the same idea showing that Eben has a very dear wish that is to avenge against his father. He considers that the farm rightfully belongs to him by inheritance from his mother. He tries to follow his father's steps when he indulges himself into some sexual affairs with Min, the town whore, because he would like to be like his father in everything. He is sexually attracted to Abbie and after his night with her , he feels that his mother's spirit has returned to her grave.

Patil (2009: 158) writes that Eben is motivated by his father's selfishness which pushes him to retaliate every misdeed his father caused for him in the past. He is a victim of his father's oppressive treatment and ridicule. So, his reply is going to be destructive and his reaction is fateful. He seeks to get rid of his father's patriarchal authority and he cannot lose a chance to revenge against his father. Robinson (2007:96-102) continues describing Eben's strategies to reach at his burning desires showing that Eben was ready to make use of every chance to harm his father. So, he decides to manipulate the mutual intimacy with his step mother to get his aim in ruining his father's life. However, he is encouraged by his father's new bride who welcomes this love intimacy. Robinson (2007: 96-102) emphasizes that Eben is spelled by the beauty of the land with an almost mystical ties of connections because he sees that he is the legitimate heir

of the farm which once belonged to his dead mother. So, he has a longing desire to retrieve his lost land and be the land owner.

Spankeren (1994:77-78) tells us that O'Neill's *Desire Under The Elms* is a familial tragedy. It recreates the hidden passions of the sons for their father's exploitation. This exploitation leads them to expose their hate and desire for the father's abuse and overworking. Diggings (2007: 4) assures that Eben wrestles his father, his brothers, his lover (Abbie) to attain his yearning target. He wants to gain his right to possess his property. He has the desire to control, dominance and occupancy with a burning appetite for empowerment.

Eben spends great deal of his past waiting for a chance to achieve his revenge against his father because of the wrongs his father has done. He is stimulated by his father's wife competition to start the first pace to fulfill his plan. His father's wife stirs his passion and pushes him to initiate his plan of retaliation. He fears that everything would be lost for Abbie's part and would be under his possession.

He tastes the sweet of victory many times over his aged father in different occasions. Starting with stealing his father's savings to pay his brother's share, then, when he visits his father's lady, Min, and when he succeeds to win the new bride's heart and start strong ties of love with her to please the soul of his late mother. The fulfillments of his warring desires were about to be gained, but the net of love with Abbie violates his targets. He admits his share in the infanticide of the child with Abbie and this admission makes all his deeds go unfinished. The worst is that the sense of victory now makes his father just like the elms and the stone of the farm. Eben prefers to lose his deadening desires for the sake of love. So, his warring desires and wishes are left unfulfilled because he chooses to sacrifice everything for the sake of love and nothing else.

3- Abbie's Unfulfilled Desire:

This part tackles the character of Mr. Cabot's new wife, i.e. Abbie. Tilak (2009: 215) delineates the countenance of Abbie Putnam. She is the third wife of Ephraim Cabot who is full of vitality. She is a thirty – five years old lady with a buxom body. Her face is pretty and there is strength and obstinacy in her jaw. Her eyes are full of ambition.

Robinson (2007: 102) pens that *Desire Under The Elms* unfolds overt intrafamilial struggles ; the most covert one is between Abbie and Eben. Patil (2009: 156) elucidates the character and behaviour of Abbie as she has her own desire that is to secure her life she spreads the incense that stir the depth of the events and she incites the cruel actions in the family .

Berlin (1982: 72) sees that she is like the Geek story of Phaedra¹ her step son Eben is her competitor for the land. Abbie drags Eben's legs to fulfill her destructive desire for love and reaches her goal, having a child, through an illicit relationship. She is successful in her love affairs with Eben to grasp and dominate the whole land . On the other hand, Eben surrenders his feelings and heart to her destructive seduction. She paves his way for sexual affinity to the degree that he repeatedly visits Min, the town whore . She follows her deadening desire to control and possess the land whatever price it may cost. She stoops at the very beginning to reach at the suitable chance in which she can overcome everything and dominate the land " (with the conqueror's conscious superiority) I'll go in an' look at my house. (She goes slowly around the porch). (DUTE 1959: 18-19). She submits herself completely to Cabot's sexual desire. Sahu (1991:162) confirms that she moves on applying her plan to capture Eben's heart and she succeeds.

Lall (2008: 254) identifies Abbie's character closely saying that she intends to put her hand on all ropes . She seeks to dominate each and everything in the land " Abbie: (savagely seizing on his weak point) your 'n'? yew mean – my farm? Eben : I mean the farm yew sold yourself fur like any other old whore- my farm! (DUTE 26) She has a web of wishes and plans in her mind. She not only wants to marry but to have a very huge house and to love another man and has a child from him . Abbie has an undiminished eagerness to attain many stranded targets that are security, love, wealth, marriage and child .

Hamilton (2010:56) shows that Abbie thinks of the land to be her only chance to cement her life . However , she is captivated by her love to

Evans (1970:128) explains the real identity of Phaedra. Phaedra is one of Theseus' wives Who , ¹ during his absence made advances to Hippolytus, his son from Hippolyte, who rejected her. She then falsely accused Hippolytus of making advances to her. Theseus begged the gods to avenge him and they sent a monster out of the sea to frighten his horses so that he was thrown from his chariot and dragged to his death.

her step son Eben . She chases the unattainable by establishing an illicit intimacy with Eben.

A moment later the kitchen door is slowly pushed open and Abbie enters . For a moment she stands looking at Eben . He does not notice

her at first. Her eyes take him in penetratingly with a calculating appraisal of his strength as against hers. But under this her desire is dimly awakened by his youth and good looks. (P. 21)

She tries to make an incestuous relationship with Eben and she succeeds to persuade him to do so.

Eben: ay – eh . I feel – mebbe she – but - I can't figger out-

Why – when ye've stole her place – her in her hum- in the parlor

Whar she was.

Abbie :(fiercely) she knows I love ye!

Eben: (his face suddenly lighting up with a fierce , triumphant grin) I see it ! I see why. It's her vengeance on him – so's she kin rest quiet in her grave. (P.36-37)

Diggings (2007: 104) expresses his ideas about human nature and his eagerness to extend and increase his possessions . Abbie follows this nature when she tries to submit her husband to her sexual desire aiming at capturing the farm and security. However, the aim behind her intimate affinity with Eben , her rival, is love and having a child . so, her dear desires are to submit each and everything to her will and control.

Krasner (2005:148) indicates that she falls head over heel in love with Eben and gets a child however guilt drives her to betrayal and infanticide . (She confesses many times even for Eben that she married old Cabot only for the sake of his money and farm. The worst is that she expresses her hatredness for him . she chases two aims in her new life . The first is to dominate the farm whereas the second is to have a child from her lover and rival Eben.

Patterson (2007:113) focuses on the idea that Abbie's character grows under the stress o f circumstances. As the action develops , her identity undergoes great change. She begins with lust, greed, and

intrigue. Even though , we know that she has suffered a lot in her past life and that the desire for a home and security is natural for her, we are inclined to condemn her as lustful , greedy, and intriguing woman .

Agrawal (2010: 12) certifies that when Abbie overcomes everything in the land and reaches her ultimate destiny, she compares between her warring desires. Which one is to be kept and which one is to be left? So, for the sake of Eben , she sacrifices her child. She wants to occupy even Eben's room where his spirit lurks, but ,unfortunately, she is captured and hunted in this room by her love to Eben.

Eben : (unheedingly with a tortured passion) I wish ye was dead!
I wish I was dead along with ye afore this come!

(with a fierce determination) I'm a- goin' I tell ye! I'll git rich thar
an' come back an' fight him fur the farm he stole – an' I'll kick ye
both out in the road- t' beg an' sleep in the woods – an' yer son along
with ye – t' starve an' die!

Abbie : (with a shudder – humbly) he's yewr son , too, Eben .

Eben : (torturedly) I wish he never was born !

I wish he'd die this minit ! I wish I'd never sot eyes on him ! it's him - yew
havin' him – purpose t' steal – that's changed everythin'! (P.48)

Furthermore, she neglects Mr. Cabot's domestic and sexual needs and prefers to choose Eben , the lover . Now everything becomes evident for Mr. Cabot that his son and his wife conspire and cooperate to destroy him. They unify their efforts to harm and crush him .

Abbie represents the pivot around which the drama revolves because she motivates the son Eben to start his plan for retaliation from his aged father. There is a gradual change in her life and goals after falling deeply in love. Her longing desires are reduced and represented only by her love. So, her love compensates her betrayal and murder for the child . She leaves everything to gain her love.

Abbie: (after a pause with a dreadful cold intensity – slowly)

If that' what his comin' done t' me – killin' yewr love – takin'

yew away- my on'y joy – the on'y joy I ever knowed – like
heaven t' me – puriter 'n heaven – then I hate him , too, even
if I be his maw!

Eben : (bitterly) lies! Ye love him ! He'll steal the farm fur ye!

.....

Abbie: (distractedly) he won't steal! I'd kill him fust ! I do love ye !

I'll prove to ye..... (P. 49)

The grandeur of her passion exalts and uplifts her, though she
commits many wrong deeds.

Abbie : (slowly and brokenly) I didn't want t' do it. I hated
myself fur doin' it . I loved him . he was so purty- dead spit
'n' image o' yew . but I loved yew more – an' yew was goin'
away – far off whar I'd never see ye agen , never feed ye pressed
agin me agen. (P. 52)

At the end of the play, her warring desires are not all fulfilled . She
achieves some of them but sacrifices the rest of them. She sticks to
Eben's love whatever price it costs. The lovers share their plight. Abbie
forgets to be a mother, and she forgets her wish to be secured and being a
land lady for the sake of her burning desire for love and nothing else. She
loses everything and her desires are left unfulfilled.

Conclusion:

The study concludes that O'Neill's drama sends a message that the main characters have some deadening desires to fulfill but their main desires are faced by other characters who wanted desire to accomplish their life. The father, Mr. Cabot, has many important desires to fulfill but these desires are faced by his son's refusal and his new wife over estimated desire to possess each and everything in the farm. Mr. Cabot is destroyed by his family members who all refused his desire to prove his activity in front of his neighbours and family and to force his sons to be under his control.

Eben's longing for achieving his retaliation for his late mother against his snobbish and selfish father is also violated by his love connection and incestuous relationship with his father's wife. He forgets everything about his mother's soul that hovers in the room. He also forgets his hate for his father's wife and is infatuated by her beauty and coaxing behaviour. The worst is that he falls in love with his previous enemy. Now their aims are united to crush the aged Cabot and capture everything .

The most important desires are those of Abbie at the very beginning of the oeuvre. Later on , her goals increase to have every human and stone in the land. So her previous noble aims are severely violated to become destructive. She forgets her search for a secured life and a husband. Now, she wants a child , a land and a lover. She tries to put her hand of every rope to fulfill her eagerness and past bereavement. But all of a sudden , she leaves all these desires and aims to find a lover to feed up her sexual desire as a woman who searches for sexual integration. So, her desires are violated and become unfulfilled. Her needs are the most urgent one which remains unachieved.

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الرغبة غير المتحققة في مسرحية يوجين اونيل "رغبة تحت اشجار الدردار "

مدرس : احمد هاشم عباس

قسم اللغة الانجليزية

كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

جامعة البصرة

المستخلص:

تعد " رغبة تحت اشجار الدردار " احدى المسرحيات الامريكية المهمة التي تسلط الضوء على اهمية الحلم والرغبة للامريكان انذاك. لقد رسم يوجين اونيل شخصياته بعناية محاولاً اظهار شغفهم وتوقهم للوصول الى رغباتهم واهدافهم . صمم اونيل مسرحيته بطريقة واقعية وتعبيرية لابرارز سعيهم الاعمى والحديث من اجل انجاز اهدافهم ومخططاتهم.

تتناول الدراسة الحالية الشخصيات الثلاث الرئيسية في المسرحية لان باقي شخصيات العمل هي اقل اهمية او ليست بمستوى فاعلية نظيراتها الرئيسية . تم تقسيم الدراسة الى ثلاثة اجزاء بحسب اهمية الشخصيات الرئيسية ودورها. يقوم الباحث بتحليل سلوكيات كل من تلك الشخصيات وتقييمها وشرحها ودراسة دوافعها وتحركاتها وصولاً الى هدفه من وراء هذه الدراسة وهو تحديد رغبة أي من الشخصيات انحرفت عن مسارها ولم يتم انجازها . فالشخصيات الرئيسية كلها لديها رغباتها الجارفة التي تحوم في بالها وقلبها كيما يلاحقها.

وطبقاً لهذه الدراسة فان زوجة الاب الجديدة وعشيقة ابن زوجها هي التي فقدت اهدافها ورغباتها كلها بسبب لهفتها ورغبتها الجنسية المحرمة وكذلك رغبتها في الاستحواذ على كل شيء . وهذا بالطبع يعد مستحيلاً لانها فقدت ابنها وزوجها وما كانت تحلم به من ممتلكات من اجل عشيقها.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الرغبة غير المتحققة، التملك، الانتقام، اللهفة