

**Memory and Reminiscence in John Banville's
*The Book of Evidence and The Sea***

*A Dissertation Submitted
In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree
of*

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY



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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation titled “**Memory and Reminiscence in John Banville’s *The Book of Evidence and The Sea***” submitted to Department of English & Foreign Languages, Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy in English is a record of work done by Rajat Kumar Maurya (Roll No. 190909) during the period of his study (2019-2020) under my supervision and guidance. To the best of my knowledge, this is the original work done by him and the dissertation has not been submitted in part or full for the award of any Degree/Diploma either in this university or any other university.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that M. Phil Dissertation titled “**Memory and Reminiscence in John Banville’s *The Book of Evidence and The Sea***” has been exclusively done by me under the supervision of **Dr. Rinu**, Assistant Professor, Department of English & Foreign Languages, Central University of Haryana, Mahendragarh. The work presented in the dissertation is original and references to the other works have been made with proper acknowledgement and complete source of information that is included in the Bibliography. The manuscript has been checked for plagiarism verification by Turnitin software under Submission ID no. 1642374419 vides plagiarism Analysis Report no. CUH/2021/LIB/1529 Dated: 06-09-2021

I further declare that this dissertation has not been submitted to any other institute or university for the award of any degree.

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CONTENTS

Certificate		ii
Declaration		iii
Acknowledgement		iv-v
Contents		vi
Plagiarism Report		
		Page No.
	Introduction	1-13
Chapter One	Memory, Reminiscence and Identity	14-29
Chapter Two	Memory and Reminiscence in <i>The Book of Evidence</i>	30-45
Chapter Three	Revisiting the Past in <i>The Sea</i>	46-64
	Conclusion	65-70
	Bibliography	71-73

INTRODUCTION

The research immensely focuses on human's mind activity, and its requirement, living in various situations. It may embrace the area of psychological fiction which underlines depiction of inner-self and encourages character to explore a life consisting of spiritual and mental realm. The narrative explores reasons behind such behaviors of the characters as it delineates characters' inner-side happenings. The events of life may or may not be presented in chronological order, nevertheless, they occur in characters' thought association, memories, fantasies, reveries, contemplations, and dreams. The characters in the novels of John Banville try to rummage a different world through his memories where he can get respite out of distress. Recalling of the past and exploration of 'self' are done through memories of the whole life. Memories of a person's life are a series of incidents happened to him during childhood or adulthood, can be found as in his autobiography which he tends to share with others the reoccurring incidents which have moved him deeply. The process of recalling is sometimes oral or silent, focused or non-focused, other or self-serving, amusing or serious, general or personal, and significant or insignificant. It is usually acknowledged that memory and reminiscence have been associated with old-age and attributed to remembering the past experiences and social interaction, also determine the attitude toward other people. However, Human body is a combination of different organisms. It involves different physical and mental abilities. Mental ability reinforces a person to use his mind at different occasions and for different purposes. Memory is a part of mental activity which records information about things or events with the faculty of retrieving it later at will. Human being upholds a good number of nostalgias which mysteriously recollect to the unknown place in the mind. He cannot retrieve them every time unless he observes or feels the same circumstances which have already struck him at some point. He cannot record all sets of past memories chronologically, rather the important events or incidents are randomly preserved in the mind.

Reminiscence and memory are considered as constituents of psychology. Psychology is about mental function of the brain. How the ideas processes and how the information is stored in the mind and retrieved later at will. The biology also studies the physical structure of the mind embedded memory, which is an organism of millions of neurons. In literature, reminiscence and memory help writer escape from the discontent

or desperation of present. When a writer is not satisfied with his life and surroundings, he shifts back to the past and seeks consolation from grief. The terms, 'memory' and 'reminiscence' are concerned to human mind and they depict life journey of a person by fetching numerous events related to one's life. The term 'reminiscence' is used first by a psychologist Ballard in 1913. He defines that reminiscence is the act or process of recalling past experiences or events, or memories. The psychologist Gillian Cohen in his book *Memory in the Real World* (1989) asserts areas of everyday memory and brings together studies on many different topics such as memory for plans and actions, for names and faces, for routes and maps, life experiences and flashbulb memory, and eyewitness memory. He puts emphasis on the role of memory in consciousness and meta-cognition. W. Allen's *The Timeless Moment* (1931) and U. Neisser's *Memory Observed Reminiscing in Natural Context* (1982) discuss that reminiscence is a unique phenomenon, a process in which the ego is cognizant of an experience in which the individual is, for the moment, especially interested in, that is enfolded in his or her memory. The light of the reminiscence is the awareness focused on the point where a new experience is passing in through the senses from the outer world to mesh inextricably with enfolded memory.

In literary studies, memory narratives have been taken in use by the writers from the west long before. Earlier, the writers such as Samuel Richardson, Henry James, William Faulkner, Virginia Woolf, Samuel Beckett wrote novel dwelling upon the psychology of human being. Writers of the 20th and of the 21st century have also written novels on human psychology comprising memories of lived-past experiences. Later, Novels on imaginations, dreams and memories have been introduced exerting experiment on human psychology by these writers. Psychological fiction includes thoughts, feelings and motivations of the characters exercised immensely with greater interest than the external action of the narratives. Writers of these novels emphasize the emotional reactions and internal states of the characters, and in turn trigger external events in a meaningful symbiosis. The expression of the inner life of characters is a fundamental element of a vast body of the fiction. Plot of the narrative is primarily dependent upon mental probing and its delineation in multiple contexts. Events of life are presented randomly throughout the novel as they occur in the character's thoughts and memories. Overwhelming incidents may occur earliest any time whenever they get

tempted by the outer influences. Sigmund Freud had asserted the growth of psychology in his psychoanalysis theory. He contends human psychology and behavior are influenced by his surroundings. Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Leo Tolstoy discuss about human's psychological complexities and unconscious motivation in their works. Henry James contends that recording external events strike on individual's consciousness.

Other sub-categories of fiction such as biography, autobiography, reveries, and memoir are closely associated to memory narratives. They also portray past events regarding character's own life happened either in childhood and adulthood, or in dreams. They also portray life of a man who has social recognition and position with. They delineate some important events or achievements of the people. However, memory narrative depicts also the story of a common person who has already lived his life in good and bad situation. He gets himself involved in recalling memories whether important or unimportant. He tries not to miss any single moment of his from childhood up to old-age. Writers who write novels attributing psychology of Protagonists, also depict memory and reminiscence happened through the incidences which they have already experienced in their early life. They delineate these incidents either in chronological order, or select any of the serious incidents of life. Their life dwells upon these incidents which influence them the whole life. Biography is generally a detailed description of some important incidents of life about a person written by other person. It comprises some real facts about a person such as childhood, education, career, relationships, family, and death. The complete portrayal of reoccurring events and the person's self-experience are presented systematically throughout the work. Autobiography is very close to narratives on memory. It comprises life story of a renowned person written by oneself. Unlike biography, autobiography is a review of life involving particular moments. It narrates the story of the writer concerning real-life happenings by delineating major events from beginning to the old age. Memoir is a non-fiction narrative based on the author's personal selected memories, is close to works written on memories. Memoir, as it is close to narratives on memory, is considered as sub-category of biography or autobiography. Narrative on memory employs author or protagonist's whole story dwelling upon memory which he gets recollected in his mind by watching or visiting the places of early days. He remembers those days one by one either in chronological or randomly picked out. It has been as a

new way for scholars to think about past events at the end of the 20th century. Memory uses past events which is brought in present by writers or protagonists. It is a contemporary phenomenon that is concerned with the past happening in present. Memory is a form of work which takes place through actions and labors of writers or protagonists in novels to show how different domains of life are intersected.

The psychoanalysts Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan who study human mind, talk about human psychology in their theories of psychoanalysis. They interpret about human mind which works upon will and intention. Freud argues that human psychology is operated by his desires and intention. He also says that human can create multiple thoughts at a time. Human body is driven by the mind and follows the order which is given by the mind. Some thoughts or desires appear in narratives and some are repressed. Human mind subsists vulnerable. It may soak serious or pleasurable incidents for a long time. Generally, people store them in their mind in the form or memory. Freud also asserts that a person himself becomes completely aware of own deeds which he performs in life. He can compare deeds of his life with other deeds. He can also judge himself on the basis of his deeds. The memory of actions stays longer in the mind, but Freud does not support the authenticity of person's memory for those actions. However, he argues that we prefer to dwell on our memories. Lacan also argues that human psychology which hangs on his past deeds, either good or bad. He says that childhood activities affect life in present and in future. According to him, unconscious mind which stores previously experienced events may come spontaneously when the same situation is experienced again in present or in future. Memories and reminiscences are not only to recall the past memories but also help human being escape from the present distress and search for self-identity. The existential philosophers like Søren Kierkegaard, Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus talk about the human existence and its importance for self. They utter that human being has right to stay despair or discontent, or may come out of to explore and find freedom from tension. Kierkegaard's *The Concept of Dread* (1844) and *Sickness Unto Death* (1848) has elaborated that through God and in God, a person may find freedom and peace of mind from tension and discontent. Jean-Paul Sartre has propounded his version of philosophy in his work *L'Existentialisme est un Humanisme* (1946). He expresses his philosophical point of view in which he says that human may ascribe two

states of life. Firstly, he may be passive living in the mud, or secondly, he may be active by exercising the power of choice so that he can give the meaning of existence and the universe. The existential philosophy has widely been exercised in the west for the purpose of acknowledgement of self-existence. Many novelists like Samuel Beckett and John Banville have applied philosophical point of view in their works.

John Banville in his novels recounts the incidents of his protagonists' life by revealing to someone or experiencing himself again by traveling the same place after many years. They (protagonists) reveal how they had life in their childhood or adulthood, and how they look for their childhood in present scenario. The incidents of early days are incentive for them because the present is not as fascinating as they expected. John Banville favors writing about the past. He says that his exploration of the past through writing may deeply touch the readers' yearning. His novels such as *The Newton Letters* (1982), *The Book of Evidence* (1989), *Untouchable* (1997), *Eclipse* (2000) *The Sea* (2005), and *Ancient Light* (2012) discuss about memory and reminiscence, and share a good amount of nostalgias of the protagonists' life. Banville's protagonists initially seem quite disparate and extremely sensitive even though they have artistic skills to show their temperaments. They show their suffering caused by spiritual confusion and distortion. Most of them are falling apart either of pressures in life causing woe to them, or of some unpredictable crisis of life. Since, old age is quite favorable to Banville's protagonists because they are now retiring from the very responsibility of life. They can observe their life's activities through the lens of memory. It is quite natural for them to cast their eyes onto the past. These protagonists can peep into a tiniest long ago in their childhood. His protagonist's exploration of the past seems to be he himself is going to explore the incidents of childhood. He expresses himself: "the past beats inside him like a second heart." He unfolds a bunch of good as well as bad memories. He has nostalgias of those days that retrieve repeatedly when he feels or smell something. He has fresh reminiscences of childhood and adulthood. Banville is no longer interested in intolerable hovering present; however, he wants to escape from it. Most of his works take the protagonists to the past where he explores content from despair by moving physically and mentally.

Banville's protagonists are found restless human beings who never stop at a place. They move aimlessly from one place to another in search of self-discovery and

self-identity. Banville has taken his protagonist to explore the birth place as in *The Newton Letters* (1982), *The Untouchable* (1997) and *Eclipse* (2000). They move away from their origin places in search of their birth-place which retains some sorts of erotic story related to their life. *The Newton Letters* comprises the adventures of an unnamed aspiring biographer of Isaac Newton. The protagonist shares what happened to him while spending the summer in the countryside village. In the beginning, he hires a room in the south of Ireland to put the finishing touch to his book on Newton. He usually recalls the happenings of passed days being here. In *Eclipse*, Banville puts light on his mere protagonist who was ever a renowned person. He also does not console himself from the outer distress and chooses to stick with the world of memory. The protagonist, Alexander Cleave, a fifty-year old disillusioned actor, who retreats to his empty childhood home for indefinite time to introspect his past days lived with his dear wife Lydia. He seeks to disclose incidents of life jumbled in his mind in form of memories. He takes help of memories of his daughter and decides to live rest of life in her memories. In *Untouchable*, Banville present the story of his protagonist in form of memoir which deals with story-telling of self by a former British spy, Victor Maskell, who has been discovered as a double agent working for Russia during Second World War. He becomes a victim of intense criticism from the people of his community which is both angry and disgusting for him. He gets published memoir written by a lady who takes interest in his life. He narrates the incidents of his life to her. The basis of the story is from the real-life Cambridge Spy. Banville delineates his first-person protagonist as a well experienced man having complete taste of life. Victor comes up those times in Cambridge when he had no thought or concern about right or wrong. But his life was all about living on the edge and indulging in pleasures as there was no tomorrow. He recalls the early days which are striking since happened to him and still remaining afresh as a part of real-life incidents. His professional life was striking that changed rest of his life. The memory of some important incidents recurs when the protagonist of Banville sits to recall.

Banville's search for a suitable place for his protagonists appear clear in his novel. He provides his protagonists extraordinary visions which help them look the past days through memory. Although, he does not want his protagonists to live solely in the past, he insists to make analogy with the two arenas of life. He allows his protagonists

to have experience of two different worlds. He then distinguishes from them the good one and bad one. He reinforces the idea of moving back which is, according to him, a better place for anyone. He also accentuates the places of childhood days over the places of city life. He acclaims the experiences of childhood retaining good or bad memories, must have capacity to release stresses. He corroborates his idea in his novels in which the protagonists move from place to place, but at the end, they find their birth place more pleasing. According to Banville, incidents of childhood are more important. They create trauma on human mind and prolong to the rest of life. He discusses trauma as part of human life relating to human mind which assists to keep in touch with the incidents of life and, remains for longer time in the mind as memory.

Banville's works plead about the happenings of the past. He also emphasizes nostalgia as a key element which amends to adhere the past. Since, nostalgia of returning home invokes his protagonist to return their home land to find residues. His protagonists seem obsessed and having always been in the mode of returning home for consolation. Most of his protagonists have inherent feelings regarding boyhood, and depository of incidents which aggregate abstractly to form the levels of nostalgia. He constitutes an intense and overwhelming emotion called nostalgia in most of his novels, which is yearning for the past. Nostalgia seems appealing to as a means of spiritual salvation. Apparently, his protagonist's retrospect the old places that appear escaping for redemption. Banville creates a world which involves such characters who are alienated, extremely sensitive and suffering from mental and spiritual confusion and distortion. In most of the cases, his heroes are either overburdened under life's pressure that is too much for them, or the struggle of some crisis caused by severe mishaps. Though the present life does not have anything favorable, it is extremely enough for them. Therefore, it is quite natural for them to anticipate something better from the past. These protagonists usually return to their favorite places in retrospection and eventually the subsisting physical objects evoke nostalgia such as smell of the house, remaining of the destroyed buildings, natural surroundings, and the wide sea. Unlike the protagonists of other novelists, Banville's protagonists are caught in remembering the happenings of early days. They prefer to recall any of the moments by staring eagerly to the objects which may have inherent memory and tend to give momentary happiness. They get delighted to live in the past rather than the present because of the

unbearable failure they must be facing in the real world. As in *Eclipse*, Banville's protagonist, Alexander Cleave, a middle-aged man, leaves an impression of nostalgia of his childhood. He undergoes a lot of mental agonies in his real-life and chooses not to live anymore where he now is. He then approaches to childhood home. Cleave moves to his childhood home which keeps him away from harsh and brutal reality. He always prefers to live in his memory and ravishing past. While dwelling in his old house, he gets struck in two chaotic and painful worlds: the old and the new, the past and the present.

In *The Book of Evidence*, Banville delineates a good number of memories of past and even recently happened incidents which he recalls at the time of revelation of criminal activity during the trial in court. The protagonist Freddie Montgomery is a criminal who murders a woman while stealing a painting from his friend's home. He reveals his claim on painting because the painting is one of the valuable things of childhood memories. He goes to his mother house to collect all his belongings of childhood but the painting which is very close to him, was missing from there. He gradually unfolds incidents of his life and enchantment for those days. Freddie's memories are often sorrowful and distressing, however, he manages to express those sorrows in front of the court. He belongs to a rich family, but his fortune is changed after some times. Earlier, he was favorite of his loving parents, but now his parents no longer love him, as they sold his dearest belongings of childhood. His mind feeds with memories of his parents who were ever dear to him. Now, his cheerless life is no longer to return on the track of cheerfulness. The somber memories sometimes cause a kind of trauma which strikes in the mind intermittently. He recounts the events that echo and seem to be taken from the repository or from the storage of retrieval data consisting of the realities of life which he never wants to miss anymore. It always seems, out of his present condition, his close observation of the real-life incidents of past is assimilated through his sensibilities. He recalls his grief caused by his mistakes or by others, and immediately shifts to remembrance of those merry moments which caused by his noble deeds. He feels remorse inside the prison; furthermore, such situation will create more difficulties for him. Therefore, he prefers to move to those days which comfort him.

Banville depicts another pathetic situation of his protagonist in his novel, *The Sea*, in which the protagonist is a pessimist characters who has lost his hope of living

after the death of his wife due to a fatal disease. He lives in desperation twice throughout his life. First, after the death of his girlfriend of childhood who drowned in the river, and second his wife. He lives his life in dismay after his wife's death. He finds no pleasure in life. He decides to recall the memories of childhood and adulthood when he lived in greater responsibilities. He was a professional architect and had a lot of experiences in his life those days. He prefers to move the places of childhood. He visits the place where he used to live with his parents in childhood and visited again with his wife. It is a rented lodge named Cedar near the seaside. While facing toward the sea he starts retrieving those days of childhood and adulthood when he used to come here with his parents in summer holidays. He recalls his first meeting with the Grace family and spending those days on sea side with them. He attracts towards the beauty of Mrs. Grace and seduces her and then her daughter Chloe too. In *Ancient Light* too, John Banville deals with the remembrances of the protagonist who wants to retire from the burden of responsibilities and retreats back to his early days with the help of memories. The protagonist, Alexander Cleave, an old retired actor, wants to go away from all restraints coming to his freedoms of life. He doesn't want to accept the unpleasant present which causes mental dilemma to him. He affirms to recall his ten years back memories of losing his daughter who was dear to him. He tends to remember good or bad memories regarding to his daughter who is no longer with him. Likewise other protagonists, he also has the abundance of pleasant and unpleasant memories which help him live the rest of his life away from distress. Cleave begins to record his memories of life in which he had a unlike affair to his friend's mother who was twenty years senior to him. He himself says "Bill is his best friend and he falls in love with his mother." The novel revolves around the memories of affair and his current state of grief which he shares with his wife Lydia. The novel includes family, love, grief, and the reliability of memory.

The research has primarily focused on to bring into limelight the significance of memory and reminiscence in human life which recollect multiple incidents of early days into the mind and recall them, and can also be served to ascertain the identity of a person. It has discussed how memory and reminiscence play a vital role to solve problems of life in any circumstance, and help to shift from adverse or gloomy situation of life to a very calm and joyous moment of life, especially of childhood. Memory

helps recollect in the mind miscellaneous incidents in form of memory, and through reminiscing a person endeavors to peep into his life and others, and their influences on rest of life. The research has attempted to reveal how recollections of memory are exercised to uncover various important facts and to solve various puzzles of human life which are still remained unsolved. It has also stressed to the facets of memory which are the correspondence of life's journey, surrounded with multiples hurdles and merry moments, give a man sufficient experience of life which consists pleasures and pains of early days. It is usually acknowledged that memory and reminiscence have been associated with old-age and attributed to remembering the past which measures social attitude toward other people. The memory of a person attributes to his identity by highlighting his social negotiation and interaction. He searches for a group of men who have moved him deeply and can be evident of his social recognition.

The research will try to understand how memory and reminiscence are useful elements of human life even though they are attributed to mind. Mind of a man can store multiples data which can be retrieved later at will on special occasions, and can facilitate to inspect life closely by using memory and reminiscence from childhood to till the current age. It will also help in understanding how memory actively helps to move away from distress of life which is boring and cheerless, to a pleasant and furnished. The research has mainly focused to highlight the importance of memory and reminiscence in human life, pleasures and pains of past memories, ecstasy in exploring the past, and search for self-identity. The research is based on the analytical and critical evaluation of the select texts of John Banville. This analysis has given a valid perspective and enabled to justify the topic. Thematic and comparative study of the texts have been applied to understand the role of memory in human life. Existential philosophical approach has been applied to explain human existence. Secondary data have been furnished appropriately to enrich the relevancy of the topic. Inter-textual and inter-disciplinary approach have been used to bring it to a relevant perspective. Theoretical and empirical methods have been applied to analyze human experiences and memories in the select novels.

There are various research works are available but the present research has tried to explore something new which is remain untouched. It has highlighted some important aspects that have not been noticed yet regarding memory and reminiscence in

John Banville's novels. Flore Coulouma has written a research article titled "Framing Significance in John Banville's *The Book of Evidence*" in which she examines metaphor and its relevance to the question of language and fictional narrative discourse using ordinary language of everyday experience. Dr. Kublilay Gecikli has also written an article titled "Authentic Hero in *The Book of Evidence* by John Banville" in which he has discussed the authenticity of the protagonist. He says that the depiction of the protagonist and his family background is different from that of other people. Dr. Anandhraj has written a research article titled "John Banville's *The Sea*: Memory as Burden in a Series of Moving Photographs of the Past" and he describes that time remains in the form of incidents that do not fade away completely from the banks of one's mind. They are preserved somewhere inside the mind and can be retrieved according to importance and impact. He further says that incidents are considered to be lost but it can be recalled with the similar smell, taste, color, and situation. He emphasizes that memory is forgotten and recalled, but it may bring another memory of the same and of the other incidents. Monica Facchinello has written an article titled "The Old Illusion of Belonging: Distinctive Style Bad Faith and John Banville's *The Sea*" which was published in 2010. In this article she asserts Banville's poetic style of writing novels. She further delineates his obsessive attitude toward identity and authenticity of his characters.

The research is divided into three chapters excluding Introduction and Conclusion. The first chapter titled "Memory, Reminiscence and Identity" is about memory and reminiscence which are directly related to function of mind. Our mind is capable to preserve various information into some mysterious place which can be used later at will. Mind of a man is storehouse which can soak in innumerable information for a long time, and reminiscence exercises to relate the incidents of present to the incidents of past or of early days which are stored in the mind in form of memory. Memory and reminiscence help a person to ascertain his identity by recalling other people who are very close to him and his social negotiation or interaction. He can also discover himself by visiting old places, especially of childhood, which contain memories of early days along with people around him. The second chapter has analyzed John Banville's *The Book of Evidence* under the title "Memory and Reminiscence in *The Book of Evidence*". The book unfolds memories of the protagonist

whatsoever he experienced until he was sent to jail for a crime which he unintentionally committed. *The Book of Evidence* asserts a bunch of past memories of the protagonist during the confessional trial in court. The protagonist, Freddie Montgomery, is a criminal who murders a woman while stealing a painting from his friend's home. He reveals his claim on painting because the painting is one of his valuable things of childhood memories. He goes to his house to get all his belongings of childhood, but the painting which is very close to him, was missing from there.

The third chapter has analyzed John Banville's novel, *The Sea*, under the title "Revisiting the Past in *The Sea*. It has depicted a desperate protagonist, Max Morden, who has recently lost his wife suffering from cancer. He has been dismayed due to the loss of his wife, and the city which is lifeless, torments him from inside. He finally decides to leave the place for his childhood place where he was living with his parents. The place is fully naturally surrounded, and contains a bunch of memory of his early days. It is a rented lodge named Cedar near the seaside. While facing toward the sea he starts retrieving those days of childhood and adulthood when he used to come here with his parents during holidays in summer. He recalls his first meeting with the Grace family and spending those days on sea side with them. The last part of the research is conclusion.

The research has also emphasized memories of life of different protagonists at different circumstances and how they move along the reality of life. The protagonists have employed memory as a powerful tool to face off various adverse situation of life after being approached at old age. Memory helps to them find out mysteries things of life which was once strange to them and also helped them to solve it through rummage. Memory also assists to ensure the identity of the protagonists through recalling their interaction with other community people as well as through remembering their day-to-day activities. The research will highlight how the writer absorbs memories of common people to cure varied mental stresses or diseases, solving real-life mysteries and ascertaining self-identity.

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CHAPTER - I

MEMORY, REMINISCENCE AND IDENTITY

Human beings are born with various inherent qualities which help them to govern their life using those qualities. They have many physical and mental capabilities to perform tasks by activating themselves. Physical entities help execute bodily activities and mental faculty, is exercised in decision-making, information-accumulating, ideas-formatting, remembrances, thoughts, etc. Mind plays an important role to manage whole body which consists of many neurological processes. Human mind possesses immense capacity to carry out all kind of activities relating to his life and beyond. Mind helps take decisions in any circumstance and soaks in millions of information that can be utilized any time. The mind is not made of technological instruments instead it involves biological process which helps to store data in the mind for short or long term. Human psychic requires a balance arena to operate properly. Memory is the ability of an organism to record information about things or events with faculty of recalling later at will. A record of a thing or an event is stored and tend to easily available for later use by the organism. It refers to processes that are used to acquire, store, and retain information which can be retrieved later at will. There are three major processes involved in memory: encoding, storage, and retrieval. As we all know that memorizing and reminiscing are not flawless process rather, they involve forgetfulness, misremembering and incorrectly encoding things in the mind. The incidents which occur in human life is stored somewhere in the mind being transformed into data that can be retreated automatically, or sometimes recalled by force. Apart from making all kinds of decision, it also adheres to retain past experiences of life. The function of the mind is to drive human's activities and ameliorate to make decision on various occasions. Moreover, it occupies a special place in human life by providing a durable consistency to hold the moments of life. Human beings encounter various situations in their live span which leave behind a solid impression on the mind for a period of time. The mind of a man gets trenchantly influenced by the incidences around him. These incidents are stored at some mysterious place in the mind which can be retrieved by contemplation when they are needed. The stored data of whole life remains in the mind in form of memory that can be or cannot be restored any time anywhere. The

engagement with the incidences including major or minor having far-reaching impact on the mind assists to recall the life journey from childhood to till the present time. There is no single man on the earth who is remained untouched of morbidity of life which later becomes source of nostalgia in remaining life span. Different kinds of memories depend upon the intense of incident which might affect mind for long time or short time. However, memory can be categorized into two major parts on the basis of duration: short-term memory and long-term memory. Short-term memories comprise memories for shorter time, around a few seconds. These memories mostly consist of the information that we are currently focusing on and thinking about. And, Long-term memories are capable of lasting for period of time. It may last days, weeks, months, or even decades. Most of these long-term memories lie outside of our immediate awareness, immersed in our unconscious mind. But it is drawn into consciousness when we come across with the same circumstance by which that memory happened to take place in the mind. If a man has suffered in childhood and manhood, he will get echo of the incidents rest of life. Moreover, he would be affected by the random retrieval of those incidents into the mind. He will be pleased when he reminisces those moments of life living happily with his parents in childhood or doing great work in adulthood that enhances social importance. He will be desperate when he remembers the loss or death of someone special whosoever valued a lot in his life. The condition of a man's life changes all the time. Sometimes, he wants to get off from his real situation and he prefers to be entangled in nostalgia of lived past experience. Sometimes, the current situation tends to give nothing but distress and pain. Seeking for a proper place where a man can console himself being away from agonies hanging on him, becomes his primary need.

The term 'memory' is synonyms of words such as remembrance, nostalgia, recollection and recalling. Merriam Webster Dictionary defines the term 'memory' as "the power of recalling what has been previously learned or experienced." The word memory is sometimes used in the substitution of word 'nostalgia' and 'remembrance'. It denotes the same meaning in particular context. The word is primarily used to reflect previously learned or experienced tracing from the storage. Reminiscence is an act of remembering long past experience often fondly. The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines it as "a particular act or instance of recalling or the thing remembered."

Reminiscence and memory are regarded as a part of psychological studies. Psychology investigates mental function of the brain. How the ideas processes and how the information is stored in the mind and retrieved later when it requires. In biology, human mind is studied as a physical entity which involves millions of neurons, form a brain. In literature, reminiscence and memory help the writer to escape from the discontent or desperation of present. When a writer is not satisfied with his life and surroundings, he shifts back to the past and seeks consolation from grief.

Ballard used the term 'reminiscence' in his book in 1913. He elaborates that reminiscence is the act or process of recalling past experiences or events, or memories. The psychologist Gillian Cohen in his book *Memory in the Real World* (1989) highlights the areas of everyday memory and proposes the study on many different topics like memories are for plans and actions, for names and faces, for routes and maps, for life experiences and flashbulb memory, and eyewitness memory. He puts emphasis on the role of memory in human's consciousness and meta-cognition. W. Allen's *The Timeless Moment* (1931) and U. Neisser's *Memory Observed: Reminiscing in Natural Context* (1982) discuss that reminiscence is a unique phenomenon, a process in which the ego is cognizant of an experience in which the individual, is for the moment, especially interested in, that is enfolded in his or her memory. The light of the reminiscence is the awareness focused on the point where a new experience is passing in through the senses from the outer world to mess inextricably with enfolded memory. Robert J. Havighurst has maintained that reminiscence is an aspect of memory but not identical with memory. Reminiscence utilizes the previously learned or experience which is stored in human mind in the form of memory. It is more dynamic that there is high level of fondness, and it may induce some multiple sensory impressions or feelings, as if emotionally real, from the recollection (memory). Reminiscence occurs when a person is filled with overwhelming feelings or emotions of past memory, he tries to manifests it by narrating to someone or noting down in his personal notebook. Reminiscence assists to dwell on the past and retrospect both purposive and spontaneous. Reminiscing is the older person's attempt to derive meanings of life from the past environment. Old age contains multiple lived experience of life from childhood to the contemporary time. Memory and reminiscence work together to those who were dissatisfied with their past life. They assist to review life to a great extent than do those

who are satisfied with their past lives. Generally, people who look back to their past life when they could not fulfill their desire in the past or did not live well as it should have been. It can be of anything such as intimate person, family, and parents or loved one. The remembrance of any of these does not let them live mentally stable at a place. The feeling of restlessness always occurs and pushes up to remind again. Nostalgia to get something can be achieved through the past's activities or longing for something forgotten long before allows us to look out the storage of mind and draw out events for reminiscing. People of all age uphold memory of the recent lived days. Memory can occur at any stage of life. A child can possess memory of recently passed day and a young man can retain memory from childhood to till present time. The process of building memory is continuous throughout life to a man. Memory that subsists in human mind sometimes seeks a fixed place where a person ever lived long before. The old belongings of the place encourage him to dip down in reminiscence regarding the place and own life. It pours out a plenty of memory related to life and even provides a fresh feeling of that old feelings.

In literary studies, such narratives which are based on human psychology and memory have been exercised by many western as well as eastern writers. Earlier, the writers such as Samuel Richardson, Henry James, William Faulkner, Virginia Wolf, Samuel Beckett, and the writer of 20th and 21th century John Banville wrote many psychological novels. Novels on imaginations, dreams and memories have been introduced later by the experiment of these writers. Psychological fiction emphasizes abstract feeling of human beings consisting thoughts, emotions, and motivations of the characters which may be equal or greater than to that of external action of the narratives. The writers focus on the emotional reactions and internal states of the characters influenced by the outer incidents or activities. The expression of the inner state of characters is a fundamental element of a vast body of the psychological fiction. Plot of this kind of narrative entirely centers around mental, emotional and intellectual responses which build up in the mind of the characters. The inner life of the characters gets affected by thought process, memories, reveries, and contemplation. Development of psychological novels reached its extreme popularity in narration after the psychologist Sigmund Freud who asserted the growth of psychology in his psychoanalysis theory. He contends human psychology and behavior are influenced by

his surroundings. Human being observes his surroundings which consist of various ups and downs cause to leave impression on the mind. Both Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Leo Tolstoy coalesce on psychological complexities and subconscious motivation in their work. They study the complex nature of mind and about its subconscious section which store multiple thoughts and memories unknown to men. Henry James argues about recorded detailed information of the external events retain in the conscious section of human mind which is retrieved at will. He says that human mind is a store house where information is recollected for later use. Marcel Proust talks about associative memory, relating to other memories of life. James Joyce also utilizes stream of consciousness technique which is closely associated to human mind and its activities. William Faulkner and Virginia Woolf exercise mental state of the characters begetting happiness and agony.

Like narratives which are written on humans memory, dreams, or psychology, biography is kind of narrative which is written on any person by someone else attributing to memories of that person on which it is written. Generally, biographies are written on some renowned persons who have done remarkable work in the field of literature or in other disciplines to be remembered by his successors. Biography primarily comprises the contribution of an author or a writer in the evolution of particular branch of knowledge. In literature, there are many biographies are written on renowned writers or authors for their invaluable contribution in the field of literature. It also portrays past events which have conspicuous impact on a writer's life. Protagonist of the novel is thought to be a person on which is written, who shares experiences of life which he experienced throughout his. Incidents of life are delineated in chronological order or selected any of the serious incidents of life, and are portrayed them in the whole novel. His life dwells upon these incidents which influence him whole life. Auden said "Biographies of writers whether written by others or themselves are always superfluous and usually in bad taste.... His private life is, or should be or nor concern to anybody except himself, his family and his friends." There are some well-received biographies such as James Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson* (1791), Richard Ellmann's *James Joyce* (1959), and George Painter's *Marcel Proust* (1959), etc. Autobiography is another form of narrative which is written by a writer himself, closely associated with the work on memories. It also comprises life story of a

renowned person written by oneself. Unlike biography, autobiography is a review of life from a particular moment in time. It narrates the story of the writer concerning real-life happenings by delineating major events from beginning to the old age. It tells a story of its author who is involved himself in the acts of life. Some autobiographies are written by other on the person's request. And some autobiographies come through the person's own pen, in his own words. Autobiographies are generally written in the form of a fictional tale such as novels or stories that closely mirror events from the author's real life. The writer notes down his life journey in his own word in chronological order. He emphasizes major incidents of life which shook him from inside. He recollects incidents of life with the help of his memory. But fictional tales based on memory include every major or minor incidents concerned with the protagonists. Authors do not let go away any single moment of life unnoticed. The fictional tales referring autobiography started drawing attention of the readers. It gets its popularity as a narrative in the twentieth century. There are many autobiographies which received fame for revealing the truths of life such as Samuel Butler's *The Way of All Flesh* (1903), Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage* (1915), Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* (1927), and J. M. Coetzee's *Youth: Scenes from Provincial Life II* (2002).

Memoir is well known non-fiction narrative which is based on writer's or author's personal memories is equivalent to the fictional tales on memory. Memoir has historically been regarded as subfield of biography or autobiography in 20th century. The genre has focused on particular events of author's life. It often asserts the story of a particular moment or time which tends to bring turning points or touchstone moments in author's life. The impactful moments are highlighted which flourished in author's life and he is recognized for the events. A memoir usually differs in the degree of emphasis placed on external events, whereas writers of memory narrative are concerned primarily with complete sifting from present world to the world of memory which happened in the past from childhood through manhood to old age. The English Civil Wars of the 17th century has produced many reminiscences among the people and soldiers, most notably of which are the *Memoirs* of Edmund Ludlow and Sir John Revesby. The French who was greatly influenced by the dominating French Revolution has excelled in this particular genre. The greatest memoirist of his time was the Duc de Saint-Simon whose *Memoires* were famous for their penetrating character sketches. It

provides an invaluable source of information about the court of Louis XIV. There are a good number of memoirs which received appraisal such as Henry Thoreau's *Walden* (1854), Charles De Gaulle's *Memoires de guerre* (1954-1959), Ernest Hemingway's *A Moveable Feast* (1964), and Edna O'Brien's *Country Girl* (2012). The narrative on memory employs author or protagonist's whole story of memory which he gets recollected in his mind by watching or visiting the places of early days. He remembers those days one by one, either chronologically or randomly picked out. It is an academic field studying the use of memory as a tool for remembering the past.

Memory includes events of all ages which can be either of the earliest or of recent time. It may bring the earliest memory in present as early as it may bring the recent memory. It makes the past present by bringing it back. Memory uses past events which is brought in present by writers or protagonists. Memory narrative is a form of work which takes place through actions and labors of writers or protagonists in novels to show how different domains of life are intersected. In the arena of fiction, there are many forms of narrative such as non-fiction narrative, novella. Narrative based on memories was introduced later which was similar in taste to memoir, biography, autobiography and psychological fiction. Besides, it was completely based on the journey of a protagonist who remains at the center throughout the novel. Initially, it would not be known well among the readers. Readers usually preferred to read biographies and autobiographies. Memoir, autobiography and psychological novels were prevalent categories of story-telling instead of narrative based on memories.

Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan's extensive interpretation of psychoanalysis theory elucidated this sub-genre. Their interpretation refers to human psychology and discusses mental activities. Freud argues that human psychology is operated by his desires and intention. The mind of a man contains multiple thoughts and desires. Some thoughts or desires appear in narratives and some are repressed. Human mind subsists vulnerable. It may soak in serious or pleasurable incidents for a long time. Generally, people store them in their mind in the form or memory. They may strike back uninvitedly anytime. As Freud says "One day, retrospect, the years of struggle will strike you as the most beautiful." Freud supposes that much narrative are the expression of desires and anxieties emanating from the unconscious part of the mind. They reside there as a consequence of the earlier repression of troubling episodes

typically experienced in childhood. Freud contends that repressed desire of the artist which transfers automatically from conscious mind to unconscious. The unconscious repressed desire is turned into a noble or grandeur thought. It is manifested in the text in different form. Freud also asserts that a person himself becomes completely aware of own deeds which he performs in life. He can compare deeds of his life with other deeds. He can also judge himself accordingly. The memory of actions stays longer in the mind, but Freud does not support the authenticity of person's memory for those actions. Besides, he argues that we prefer to dwell on our memories. He in his book, *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1899), states "Our memory has no guarantees at all, and yet we bow more often than is objectively justified to the compulsion to believe what it says." Lacan continued the theory of Freud by correcting some subtle ambiguities. He also argues that human psychology which hangs on his past deeds, either good or bad. He says that childhood activities affect life in present and in future. According to him, unconscious mind which stores previously experienced events may come spontaneously when the same situation is experienced again in present or in future.

Trauma involves human mind and memory. It usually builds impact upon the mind when something unpleasant happened around a person. An individual experiences and observes the events on the basis what kind of influence is generated on mind through the events. Generally, trauma enlists the memories of mishaps and fatalities which happen to individual or individuals. Besides, it corresponds with severe mental agonies caused by any depressive incidents. Theoretical evolution of trauma study has been drawn from the field of psychoanalysis, feminists, and poststructuralist discourses. It focuses on personal trauma such as abuse, mental illness, and depression, and collective experiences of trauma such as holocaust, slavery, and genocide. It has been developed in the late 20th century relying on Freudian theory. Freud says that trauma is an extreme experience of a man who has ever been influenced by any serious incident. Freud argues that traumatic hysteria is developed from a repressed earlier experience of sexual assault, mob lynching, and brutal assassination. Freud and Breuer emphasize in *Studies in Hysteria* (1895) that the original event was not traumatic in itself but only in its remembrance. Freud in his book, *Beyond the Pleasure* (2015) states: "I am not aware, however, that patients suffering from traumatic neurosis are much occupied in their waking lives with memories their accident." (07) Trauma is marked by the

repetition of painful event in form of memory, arises unpleasant feelings inside. A person who is victim of trauma, may repeat the same experience, which arouse such unpleasant feelings. Trauma and memory are dependent on each other. Trauma is generated when a person yields to meet some unpleasant situation that causes stress, anxiety and restlessness. The unpleasant moments are stored in mind permanently in the form of memory to encourage further mental disorders which may be retrieved from the storage automatically. On the contrary, memory and reminiscence occurs for both kinds of memories. It generally involves pleasant or good events of childhood and adulthood. On the one hand, in trauma, there is no end of stress, anxiety and restlessness for a long period of time, and on the other hand, in memory, stress, anxiety and restless are calmed down by visiting, watching, smelling, and experiencing of past, specifically of childhood and adulthood, in present.

Memories and reminiscences are part of human life. Human being anticipates to escape if he presupposes anything unsuitable. He seeks comfortable place out of the unfavorable. He expects a better world which would allow him to subside his anxiety and stress. Existential philosophers support freedom of human mind from all restraints. They advocate that a person looks for a better place where he can put his other-self. He may prefer to flee from the resistances of real world. He can experience the pleasant moment or search for self-identity. The existential philosophers like Søren Kierkegaard, Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus contend about human existence and emphasize his importance in society. They utter that human being has right to stay in despair or discontent, or may come out of it to explore and find freedom from tension. He prefers world according to his choice, either it is suitable for him or not. He may choose the world of dreams or memories which generally do not cause problem if they are selected from childhood. Kierkegaard's *The Concept of Dread* (1844) and *Sickness Unto Death* (1848) has elaborated that human being has strong believe in gods, however, he seeks solace in them. He tries to find freedom and peace of mind from the tensions or adversities. Jean-Paul Sartre asserts his philosophy in his seminal work *L'Existentialisme est un Humanisme* (1946). He contends a man can adopt life what he wants. There are multiple options for him; he can choose any of these. He expresses that the life of man is not still instead it is dynamic. His philosophical viewpoints show that human may ascribe two states of life. In the first state, he may live his life which is

unproductive and cheerless because of being surrounded with stresses and agonies, or in the second state, he may be active by exercising the power of own choice so that he can give the meaning to his life. He can exercise the power which is provided to him by nature. He can apply his mind to furnish happiness for himself seeking a proper place in the real world or a world of his own where he can transfer a portion of him to spend time in memory and reminiscence. Memory of own life eases the life of such people who do not find another way to console himself. Existential philosophy leads humanity to recognize the importance of existence. Memory and reminiscence are applied with the help of mental faculty to the rest of life.

Memory is immensely contributed in human identity. It brings forth all social and personal engagement of a person with society or dear one. Identity usually corresponds with the expression of an individual's personality or a group in society. There are various ways to put an individual into different categories to be identified by the people in society. A man can ensure his identity by giving evidences, either from currently existing life, or from the memories of early days recollected in mind. It is often thought that each person has his own person identity and personal memory which gives him a unique identity. The importance of memory for identity can be understood considering its pivotal importance in human life. Thus, memories are one of the important factors for self-identity. Memory and identity accompany together when a person oscillates in search for 'self' with help of memory. Memory plays vital role to ascertain identity of the person. It ameliorates to recall his social interactions and communal negotiation. Reminiscence compels the person to experience the same circumstance which he ever endured. It instigates him to move around and search for the people who were close to him. George Herbert Mead has talked about identity in his seminal work titled as *Mind, Self, and Society* (1934). He says that identity of a person can be created in the established society by ongoing social interaction by other people and our self-reflection. Thinking of a person about the people around him and the thinking of other people for him in society, establishes his identity. He further says that identity of a person is created through agreement, disagreement, and negotiation with other people. Behavior and self-image of a person is created on the basis of social interaction and self-reflection about these interactions.

Identity of a person can be ascertained by observing his movements, activities, and preferences. When a person refers to his childhood places or the persons who ever drove his life in past, he maintains such places or persons in present to ensure his identity as the same as it was in the past. Every object which links a present object to past or future object can be served as mean of identity. Memory of past, in the form of series, provides a sense of personal identity – an individual of present can be sensed as the same person as someone in the past. A person can remember his school days' activities and previous relationships seems to make up an important part of his identity. Preferences, activities and attitudes become the part of self-identity are demonstrated to assure identity as in the past. John Locke says, "it is not the soul, but the consciousness which alone contains personal identity." He says that our consciousness along with thinking makes us to be called 'self' and our thoughts make us what we are and indicate toward identity. Identity can be of two types: physical identity and internal identity. A person can be identified on the basis of any of these or of both. A man can be physically identified by his physical constitution or bodily structure. Social interaction and physical meeting with other people determine his physical identity. In contrast, internal identity is established by thought, knowledge, attitude, and behavior. These internal qualities assist to create self-image. Identity also occurs when a person recalls memories of his early days while playing games with toys among childhood friends and spending happy days with parents. The surroundings and belongings of the house where he lives or used to live in childhood or adulthood appeal him to know about self and put himself in the same situation which he ever came across. This personal exercise would help him to know about self and assist him to understand self-importance.

As in the novel, *The Book of Evidence*, the protagonist walks one place to another place to collect memories and residues of childhood. He travels his hometown where he was living with parents in childhood and he also travels to working places and other places where he ever visited and spent some time. These places possess many things such as memories, friends, social interactions, personal belongings of early days, toys of childhood, and other things determining identity. His visit to the hometown captures his attention when he finds dissipated belongings of his house, remaining parts of his toys, he is compelled to recall memories of those when he was here. His

memories support him to be identified by spotting ‘self’ while negotiating with society and family in the ocean of memory. Similarly, in *The Sea*, the protagonist Max Morden, travels back to the seaside village where he was living with his parents in childhood in a rented room near the coast. He also approaches there to experience again the feelings of childhood and to see the people who were living around. He goes to find his friends and the milkman from where he used to receive milk. He finds no one there. He also searches for the Grace family who was living in the same house where he was. He was very close to them. He notices that no one is now living here. He inspects the rooms and kitchen where utensils are dispersed everywhere. He feels the same smell coming out of the house. These things encourage him to go deeper in memory and reminiscence of early days. However, His retreating to the old places appeal to identity which he seeks by moving various places. He commits to collect information about ‘self’ and his social importance by finding the people with whom he interacted and spent time.

Memories play vital to get a person to be identified by self and by others through its systematic constitution. Physical and mental constitution give a valid identity to a man. He receives some inherent qualities from his parents and some receive from social upbringings which later decide personal identity. History presupposes that someone’s memories are owned by his personal identity when he explains that memories constitute identity. Generally, memory and reminiscence are continuous process which take place any time and also becomes the proponent of identity. Remembering or recalling creates a psychological link among past experiences and current self-memory. Human being has an ability to integrate memory of discrete times to create a coherent and reasonable meaning. Direct and indirect memory are brought together which help later to substantiate its validity. Moreover, Identity of a person depends on mental state rather than physical. Memory and reminiscence connect to mental state and drive him to move around to collect evidence regarding ‘self’ and others. Healthy mental condition originates a perfect human being who contains mental ability to perform task efficiently, and can have a good collection of memory of his early days. He can recall incidents of life which have remarkable impact on his life along with identification appeal. Poor mental condition includes restless people who are mentally disturbed and have various psychological problems. He would not be able

to perform his duty of life efficiently. Such people seek their comfort zone. Such situation generally occurs to the people who have lost loved ones or to old men. They move one place to another place for self-complacency. As in the novels of John Banville, the protagonists are usually old men or someone who have lost someone special due to some unprecedented reasons. They are restless person who have lost their mental balance after the demise someone dearer. They move various places to calm their mental agonies which restrain them to live life peacefully.

Like other psychological novelists, John Banville too applies human psychology in his novels. The novels of John Banville have exercised a plenty of mental states of the protagonists. Most of the time, they prefer to listen the voice of inner-self to base their rest of life. The indecisive nature of the protagonists does not let them settle down the problems of their life. The chaotic situation generally occurs when they approach to the old age. The restless of mind and body bound them to move from one place another place restlessly. The psychology of the protagonists remains unstable unless they find a proper place to mitigate agonies. Banville allow his protagonists to utilize the capacity of their mind to discover ways for their comfort. Memory, reminiscence, recollection, remembrance becomes integral part of his novels. He employs memories of man as a medium to escape from discontent situation. Banville make full use of human mind which comprises the capacity of storing past incidents and retrieving them back at any time. Looking back to the past with nostalgic of childhood has been Banville's favorite subject in his novels, and eventually he mastered over his way of using the past for his protagonist who tries to lead life with support of memories. As soon as the novel begins the reader finds the familiar subject of invoking past. But putting the past with present is completely new thing which Banville has introduced to his readers. His narrative styles make use of emotions of the protagonist to entice the reader to experience the life of him who has been facing the challenges of life for a long time. One of the favorite Protagonist of Banville is Max Morden who lives his life on the brink of past and present. Max travels various places of his childhood and manhood where he ever visited. He finds things around which invoke him to remember memories related to these places and things. Bavage uses first the immediate present of his protagonist to make context to understand his past. His present gets affected by the deeds of his past. Like in *The Sea* (2005), first, Max has

experiences of his girlfriend who died quite early, affects his present life. Second, his wife dies of fatal disease cancer. Such shocking incidents of his life trouble him and bound him to shift from existing world which contains distress, to the world of dreams and memories. Like Max, Banville other protagonists suffers from mental illness and want to escape from present mental disturbing elements. They want to dwell their life upon mental calmness arousing a bunch of memory, which is generally furnished from childhood's days. They retreat back the place either their hometown or a very specific place which is away from any kind of disturbance. Shifting from place to place yields them to sit to contemplate about their past life. They sometimes choose to visit the places which are related to them before. In *Eclipse*, the protagonist is a senior citizen of the town. He is disappointed with his existing life. He wants to get away from all kinds of mental disturbance which he gets being as an actor. He crosses fifty of his age. He feels displeased of his present life. He returns to his vacate home of childhood for indefinite period of introspection leaving his family members back. He attempts to reveal the incidents of his life while being in a fit of contemplation. The incidents of past accumulate in his mind in form of memories. Banville's use of memories invokes the quest of identity of his protagonists. They both seek to console themselves by recalling the events of past and attempt to ascertain their identity assembling those incidents as evidence.

The psychological approach of Banville renders him to use the mind as a store house for the accumulation of information. The events are stored in the mind which happened in the past. In his novel, he furnishes the stored information of the protagonists who reveal the real-life incidents which took place ever before them. Banville's protagonists loiter from one place to another place to gather memories of early days. The smell, touch, and taste of things also encourage them to pressurize their mind to bring out something of past they have not yet recollected. As in *Ancient Light* (2002), John Banville deals with the remembrances of the protagonist who wants to retire from the burden of responsibilities and retreats back to his early days with the help of memories. The protagonist, Alexander Cleave, an old retired actor, want to go away from all the restraints which have restricted his freedom of life. He does not want to accept the unpleasant present which causes metal dilemma to him. He affirms to recalls his ten years back memories of losing his daughter who was dear to him. He

tends to remember good or bad memories regarding his daughter who is no longer with him. Likewise other protagonists, he also has the abundance of pleasant and unpleasant memories which help him to live the rest of his life out of distress. Cleave begins to record his memories of adulthood when he had an intimate relation with his friend's mother which was quite unlawful. His mind feeds with enormous memories concerning his friend's mother. Memory of the past renders the protagonists of the narratives to regret for their deeds which they have done in the past. Cleave also recalls his deeds of past and regrets for having a silly connection to the mother of his dear friend who was twenty-year senior to him. Along the regret, Banville's protagonist feels over joy when they find themselves right for deeds they have done in the past. Banville's protagonist roams with help of memory. They believe on their memory instead of other person. When they get a chance to move around the place which can help them in recalling the past days, they rush toward the place. They use mental faculty as a powerful tool to please themselves instead of any physical entity which is less reliable to them.

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CHAPTER-II

MEMORY AND REMINISCENCE IN *THE BOOK OF EVIDENCE*

The notion of memory and reminiscence, in John Banville's texts, is common. It can be viewed in many of his texts in which he has presented his protagonists living an ordinary life. His literary works like *The Newton Letters* (1982), *The Untouchable* (1997), *The Sea* (2005), and *Ancient Light* (2012), comprise elements of nostalgia, memory, and reminiscence. He explains, "a man is in crisis he begins to search for a solid ground to stand on, some place where he himself, or some versions of himself, will be real." Considerably, escaping to the past is journey of a common man from the unbearable present situation to the soothing past. He usually shows his intensive curiosity in exploring the past days with the help of different sets of memory which are stored mysteriously at some place in the mind. However, he continues to move in search of self-importance and self-complacency. He puts more emphasis on the process of recalling from the stored data which is primarily fascinating and worthwhile. Trotting swiftly through those days of childhood and adulthood with the help of stored data, provides him a feeling, is of other world where a man is far away from disturbance and distress. He expositis number of good and bad memories, sometimes chronologically, and sometimes randomly. Memory of his old days, associated to him, retains a special position in his life and allows him to bring down the distress of real life. Moreover, it assists to prove one's authenticity.

John Banville always believes in the idea of self- exploration and thorough investigation of those incidents which shook him from inside, and have some remarkable significance in his life. Therefore, he believes that human being can live in two different worlds. First, the real world where one always lives, and second, the arena of memory and reminiscence of those days or incidents of life which chiefly strikes him, may be pleasant or unpleasant. Memory frequently affects everyday life and assists to retrieve the unforgettable moments of the past which extensively affect present condition. He seems to use his memories as evidence in some contexts and contrives to reveal it to others. He rummages mistakes of his life through his memories, and problems which he faced because of others. He travels back to the places pertaining to past memories of his life which evoke to recall immediately those incidents of life

that are, however, related to the places. The act of beholding the places and reminiscing simultaneously about them, associated to his early days, arises to capture the events of life in such a way as they cannot be forgotten forever. He believes that the incidents of past days change the meaning of remaining life. He reveals the past experiences which are collected in form of memory for later use, furnish as a phantom who keeps prompting his life. Time keeps on moving on its speed, but it leaves residues of the happenings of everyday life behind, especially of childhood and adulthood.

For Banville, the new world is not as relieving as the days of childhood. He feels disturbed from relentless surroundings that could not locate a nostalgic position in his mind. He curses industrialization and development which has destroyed natural landscape and made everyone selfish, and the life is remained tasteless. Human beings are victim of their own reasons in this fast-mobilizing world. They are heading towards a world of immense chaos and discontent. Banville takes examples from the real world in which men are busy in taking advantage of others. His protagonists are suffering to ensure their existence among the people who care nothing for others. They strive to seek their own comfort zone by reminiscing randomly any of the days of past which suits in the current situation. They are no longer interested in city life which is more deteriorating. They are always traced to rehabilitate themselves to the very existence of their life. Memory of life contains most of happy as well as days of anguish pertaining to childhood and adulthood. They prefer to recall them instead of surviving in this tormenting life of city. Banville feels gratitude to share the intention of human beings. He knows that life of human beings is affected everyday by the acts or happenings of the past which he ever came across. He incorporates them in his novels by depicting through his protagonists who experience any of Banville's concerned motifs of life. Each individual character experiences a distinct situation. But, remembrance of exuberant early days becomes panacea for all kinds of sufferings.

Banville has presented his protagonists in most of the works as restless human beings who never stop on a place. They sway flawlessly seeking self or finding out the existence of their life. Banville has taken his protagonist to explore the birth place as in *The Newton Letters* (1982), *The Untouchable* (1997) and *Eclipse* (2000). They are found retreating to their origin places which retain some sorts of erotic story related to their life. *The Newton Letters* comprises the adventures of an unnamed aspiring

biographer of Isaac Newton. The protagonist tries to communicate what happened to him while spending the summer in the country near Dublin. Initially, he rents a rural retreat in the south of Ireland to put the finishing touch to his book on Newton. There, he usually recalls the happenings of passed days. *Eclipse* (2000) is renowned which is lyrically rich and, have unorthodox structure. It has been ascribed more as a prose poem than a novel. Alexander Cleave who is a disillusioned fifty-year-old actor, retreats to his empty childhood home for indefinite period of introspection leaving his wife Lydia behind. He seeks to disclose incidents of life jumbled in his mind in form of memories.

The Untouchable (1997) is written as a memoir which deals with story-telling of self by a former British spy, Victor Maskell, who has been discovered as a double agent working for Russia during Second World War. He faces disgrace for his double role and his sexual orientation. He is intensely criticized by the community which is both angry and disgusting due to lies. Consequently, he is removed from his knighthood and position of director. He is beseeched by a lady who wants a private meeting and discovered as she wants to write a book on his life. He let her know an account of memories of his life which she finishes it in a book. The book is based on the story of the real-life Cambridge Spy. Banville delineates his first-person protagonist as a well experienced man having complete taste of life. He brings alive those times in Cambridge where there was no thought or concern about right or wrong. But his life was all about living on the edge and indulging in pleasures as there was no tomorrow. He recalls the early days which are striking since happened to him and still remaining afresh as a part of real-life incidents.

In *Ancient Light* (2012) John Banville pleads for moving back to his early days with the help of memories. The protagonist Alexander Cleave is sixty-year-old retired actor who recalls his almost ten-year back memories when he lost his daughter. Likewise other protagonists, he also has the abundance of good and bad memories which help him to live the rest of his life out of distress. Cleave begins to record his memories of life in which he had a unlike affair to his friend's mother who was twenty years senior to him. He himself says that Bill is his best friend and he falls in love with his mother. The book oscillates between memories of this affair and his current grief which he shares with his wife Lydia. The story touches themes such as family, love,

grief, and the reliability of memory.

The Book of Evidence is also one of the remarkable works of John Banville. It contains the life journey of a first-person narrator before his imprisonment. The novel is one of the Frames Trilogy which comprises the rest two novels such as *Ghost* and *Athena*. It has won The Guinness Peat Aviation Award for its excellent depiction of a first-person narrator. It was also shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Banville's fame, through this novel, was recognized among the well-known novelists. He is famous for expression of human psychic and behavior. Banville, as always, never fail to inspect the life journey of his protagonist. Similarly, *The Book of Evidence* is right there on the same path. He portrays a quite vivid picture of the protagonist, Freddie Montgomery, who is, like his other protagonists, has closely experienced the memorable events of the life which haunt deliberately. The memories of the events, experienced by the protagonist long ago, give a sharp description of the expedition of life among many difficulties. The protagonist whose full name is Frederick Charles St. John Vanderveld Montgomery recognized as a proclaimed convict of murdering brutally an innocent lady. Initially, he is found in the jail and confined there. He shares his experience of painful incarceration and of extreme careless management in the jail which give him a feeling of disgust. He has finally no option rather to accept his current situation and seeks somehow to soothe himself. He prefers to recall the days of past which were more delightful than the present. He then wants to recall those early days when he was living joyfully in his childhood and adulthood with his family and friends respectively. Those days were interesting for him because he had those experiences among the renowned persons who helped him to develop his ideologies and social identity. He is found oscillating in the jail with subsistent happenings which are associated to him. He accounts of the days which he has passed either feeling happy or being in distress. Since, the protagonist is an unfortunate 'traveler' who is followed by the mishaps that lead his imprisonment. His imprisonment not only pauses his fourth journey in life but also left him annoyed and aloof in the world of prison.

The Book of Evidence is considered as a work furnished with the elements of memories, nostalgias, and recollections rather than a confession of the convict. It is a book comprising scenes collected together from Freddie's life. Freddie prefers to remember memories which directly influenced him rather than people, and these

memories are grayish reminiscent of the color of the weather as Freddie observes it. His focused view and experience of personal aspect are associated with the reminiscence just as an existentialist who observes men and the characters of the novels. Freddie's memories are often sorrowful and distressing, even though, he manages to express those sorrows in front of the court. He delineates his investigation of those occurrences which engendered grief and left him in such condition. He was born in a rich family, but things were changed when he grew old. He is, being a loved-one for his parents, dropped in a deep world of pain which subverted his goal of life. Now, his cheerless life is no longer assistance to return on track again. The somber memories sometimes cause a kind of trauma which strikes in the mind intermittently. He recounts the events that echo and seem to be taken from the repository or from the storage of retrieval data, consisting of the realities of life, which he never wants to miss anymore. It always seems, out of his present condition, his close observation of the real-life incidents of the past is assimilated through his sensibilities. He recalls his grief caused by his mistakes or by others, and immediately shifts to remembrance of those merry moments which caused by his noble deeds too. He feels remorse inside the prison; furthermore, such situation will create more difficulties to him. Therefore, he prefers to move to those days which comfort him.

The protagonist is found in the court where he has to present himself before the judge during the confessional trial. He is brought there to give his statements and challenge evidently the conviction charge against him. He is asked to prove his innocence by giving solid evidence. Banville has depicted his protagonist who commits a crime and flees from the spot. He is captured by the police and imprisoned where he never feels comfortable and found things disgusting all around. He gets irritated in this situation and disorganized system in the prison. He rebukes the authority for its carelessness. Nevertheless, he admits to stay in the prison and the malice surroundings keep enticing him to escape from the present and live in the world of memories. When he was brought before the judge to narrate honestly the whole incidents, he confesses that he unwittingly murdered the lady because he had no option. He accepts that if he had more options except killing, he might not have killed her. But, for him, he says, the situation was out of his control. However, he tried not to murder her brutally, but he left her in the car to die.

Moreover, during the confession, he reveals stories and the incidents of his life by recalling or reminiscing that are happened to him before imprisonment. He willingly recalls his life journey not from the childhood. Initially, he remembers his wife, Daphne who was, according to him, very beautiful girl. He observed her beauty closely. He says “I think it matches very well her damp, dark, myopic beauty, I see her, my lady of the laurels, reclining in a sun-dazed glade, a little vexed, looking away with a small frown, while some minor god in the shape of a faun...” (09). His close observation of her beauty shows that he never let anything escaped anything from his mind. He has a fresh remembrance of every day’s moments which he has spent with her. He even recalls his first romantic meeting with his wife, Daphne. He says that they meet at a party in America where he falls in love with her seeing her sweet smile. He says, like other couple, he enjoyed his life with his wife. He has romantic honeymoon and shares his emotions and feelings. He says that he never has ill-respect for her, but one thing that he cannot like, is her attitude while negotiating the situation. She is appreciable, but he does not like her laziness. His wife and his son are opposite in nature as they don’t like each other.

Further he recalls his first meeting with his friend, Randolph. He meets his friend first in a bar where they were habitual of smoking and drinking. He introduces him as a wicked American who is, according to him, a liar and a well-known smuggler. He says that Randolph likes to give the impression that he is a very dangerous character and he speaks of dark deeds which he does. Freddie asks him about his profession Randolph manages to tell lies, but later he says that he makes his money by dealing in dope among the island’s transient rich. He becomes friend because he along with him used to visit the bar daily. In the course of his meeting with Randolph, Freddie asks him to lend money which he refuses to give. Freddie reminds him the promise that he made days before. Randolph gives him money as much as he wants. Freddie recalls the days of enjoyment with his family along with his close friend, Randolph. He never forgets his visit to various places which leave some echo in his mind. He recalls a shocking incident of a day when they receive a small package wrapped in brown paper. It contains a tobacco tin, cotton wool and gristly piece of meat crusted with dried blood. Freddie takes no time to recognize it as a human ear, and he immediately moves to see Randolph who covered his one-side ear. It is really painful for Freddie and he expresses

his grief for making such a huge mistake. He remembers incidents happened to his friend because of his faults. He feels remorse for his deeds.

In the course of his reminiscences, Freddie recalls his adulthood ambitions and his despicability. He says that he had a dream to become a man of importance. He wanted to fulfill his desire to achieve prosperity. He says, “When I was young I saw myself as a master builder who would one day assemble a marvelous edifice around myself, a kind of grand pavilion, airy and light, which would contain me utterly and yet wherein I would be free.” (17). He wants to become a master builder, but his ambition could not be fulfilled. He could not mark his importance among well-known persons. He later reminds his inabilities and uncertainties which never leave him. They go after him everywhere. He articulates his sadness over doing the right things wrongly. He says, “If I was reading something, an argument in some book or other, and agreeing with it enthusiastically, and then I discovered at the end that I had misunderstood entirely what the writer was saying...” (18). He delineates how the things automatically happen opposite to him even though he is unwilling to do them.

Another following memory haunts Freddie’s mind regarding his travelling from Spain to home town which echoes the morbid condition of the place. He recalls how much he hates Spain, as it is a brutish and boring country. He shares a lot of his bad experiences in Madrid when he settled there to spend some days. Further, he shares a set of retained memories of early days at Holyhead, as he was a denizen of the city. It was the city which consisted of a good number of reminiscences attributed to his life chiefly of when he was a kid and young man. Firstly, he stresses his inclination towards persistent natural beauty of that place which he finds nowhere, it is more stimulating and worthy for living. For he observes the natural beauty which involves the sunset, the clouds, and the light on the sea, were as if to console him of something lost. He exclaims that he never felt elevated elsewhere as he finds the things here soothing from several severe torments. In addition, he immediately gets reminded the incidents of those days that he spent with his father. He recollects the incidents of a particular place, Kingstown, where he used to go along with his father. His inclination towards the place which was fascinating was a few miles away from his house. He says, “It was all so affecting, I was surprised. I liked it here when I was a child, the pier, the promenade, that green bandstand. There was always a sweet sense of melancholy, of mild regret, as

if some quaint, gay music, the last of the season, had faded on the air.” (27) His ecstasy related to the places leave a melancholic impression somewhere into his mind. However, such lively moment pertaining to that place never skips from his mind because it is really more indulging rather than any other places where he visits later being adult during his professional life. He further remembers his frequent visit to the place usually in weekend and in the school holidays. Even when he used to go with his father, as his father was wittingly desirous for the place, did left him in the car giving an ice-cream when he was twelve-year old. He observes his father’s closeness to a mistress seems to be unfaithful to his mother. However, his mother is not much interested and never accompanies them to visit the place.

Banville has a close perception of human beings including attitudes, physical appearances, and conscience. He does not let anything to be overlooked from his eyes and preserves everything in the faculty of mind for later use. While reminiscing he portrays them exactly the same as if he came across them yesterday. Even when he recalls a single incident, he never misses to depict the personality of the individual: for instance, as he describes his wife. Similarly, he describes the physical appearance and the temper of his father and mother, and even of his friends who he meets. He gives a vivid description of his father. He portrays him as slight, neatly-made man with pale eye brows and pale eyes, and a fair moustache. He also delineates his mother as fat, ugly-faced, and bad temper lady. He depreciates his mother and depicts his less inclination towards his mother. He also portrays his friends some of them having good appearance and temper and some having dubious nature.

Freddie is quite curious to memorize those places where he visited last ten years before his imprisonment. He expounds two-fold of his memories of the same places. He depicts various pictures of the cities in terms of memory by visiting those places frequently. These were cheerful and pleasure evoking on the one hand, distressing and devastating on the other. He says that when he turns away from his house to the city and settles there, he gets multiples opportunities to move back to the places which he ever visited some ten years before. He reaches one of the places, is his hometown. He lives his parents and his friend Charlie. He walks along in the streets and finds that things are changed. He says “Whole streets were gone, the houses torn out and replaced by frightening blocks of steels and black glass. An old square where Daphne and I lived

for a while had been razed and made into a vast, cindered car park.” (29). He expresses his regret and gets devastated by the industrialization and development which brought down and destroyed completely the true beauty of nature of the places. According to him, the ruined heaven includes selling of church, damaged pleasant air and people seemed as survivors, are really dreadful that caused to happen. He heads towards houses through the streets and might have seen horrors. He says it seems that drunks, staggering and swearing, and lost in joyless befuddlement, are prevailing everywhere. The completely ruined picture of the towns is inducing somber feeling inside and has thwarted cheerfulness of the days which were there some ten years before. He inspects the faces of people which seem blurring without happiness. He says that he never anticipated the fully changed picture of those special places which ever evoked positive feelings, now has turned into a bursting dreadful city. He further recalls that he used to visit to the pub which belongs to his friend, Walley. When he was a student, he would be going to the pub to drink. He also visits the place where he meets first time to his childhood friend, Charlie, and never forgets him as Freddie causes great distress and humiliates his dearest friend. He recalls his early days with Charlie when both enjoy their life together. He finds various moments when both drink a lot of wine and tries to hide it to their parents. He enjoys a lot there among his friends but later things change and remains as a deserted land having nothing which may animate positivity.

Freddie enumerates the frantic memories of childhood while peeping into the memories of adulthood which emerge after his long time visiting to his house. It is really, according to him, a place of immense pleasure and penchant as well as full of childhood memories which he finds after his frequently visiting to the place. He says that he finds the distinct façades of the surroundings. The things are changed and not like that as they were in his childhood. He inclines to recall those past moments which were some values in his life. He visits his home town after a long time to see his mother and collect the residues belonging to his childhood. In an interview, John Banville states: “You know, as human beings we struggle through childhood, longing to get away from our parents, then afterwards we try to cherish them and take care of them.” He initially wants to move away from his parents to stand as an identical person, but being in an uneasy situation, he decides to unite them again. He is seemed to be obsessed to homecoming and wants to experience again those moments which were left

behind. He says “I took the bus to town, and got off at a street where I used to live years ago, when I was a student, and walked along by the railings of park in the warm wind under the seething trees, my heart filled with nostalgia.” (153). His mind is filled with nostalgia of his house. Though he has already toured across the country being as a young man, but he could not appease his appetites and console himself from the current oppressive situation and contemporary social fabrics which caused pain and distress. He observes the changing in surroundings but his mother remains in the same situation as she was some ten years back. Such adherences recur and evoke something in the form of memories of childhood days when he used to live with his mother and father. He says that he remembers his frequent visiting to the neighborhood and buying apples from the farmer’s wife. He recalls that the morning imbues vigor of freshness with more vividness and force than the real things surrounded him. He feels pleasure while memorizing the fields all around, the light above the fields, and the vast and slow late summer day. He gets affected with the natural surroundings which entice him to think furthermore those things which help in ameliorating from the distress. He finds ways to recall almost all trivial and important memories. He further says that he feels irksome with his current situation and yawns for the sweet odor of air of his own house. Therefore, he wants to get rid of all these annoying elements. He gears himself back to find his way again where he was in childhood. He finds his mother out there when he reaches home. He describes his mother as “she is a large, vigorous woman with the broad face and heavy hair of a tinker’s wife.” (40). He enters the house and finds the smell of the house as it was when he was a child. He says “Is there anything as powerfully, as piercingly evocative, as the smell of the house in which one’s childhood was spent?” (41). The smell of the house, disorderly management of the household, and the scattered utensils inside the kitchen arouse the exact sense of childhood and draws him in that state again.

He roams inside the house and examines each and everything closely. He enters into the rooms of upstairs and downstairs and finds many things attributed to his of childhood and adulthood. He says “things thronged around me in the shadows – a battered rocking horse, an old high bicycle, a bundle of antique tennis racquets – their outlines blurred, grayish, fading, as if this place were a way- station where the past paused on its way down into oblivion.” (45). His belongings of the childhood affect his

psychic and stir him up to be in the reminiscence of his house. Things happen to him as though they took place by yesterday. He goes to his father room. Though his father dies of illness long before, the memory of his father is still striking fresh in his mind when he enters the room. He hangs up with his father's memory which evokes from the things lying there. After his father's death, he says, he sits on his father's chair where he used to sit and read the books. He too looks for the same books which his father ever preferred. He finds all the moments retrieving while sitting on the chair of his father. He discovers his mother's summons to look after his father who was suffering from a severe disease. When he goes his father's room, he will find him pushing about in corners, playing with things or just standing and tilted at an odd angle. He observes odd behaviors of his father and finds him performing unnecessary task when he enters the room. He gets devastated with sudden death of his father. He also remembers the day of his father death when he was lying on the bed having tied up, ready for coffin. He portrays him even on the death-bed as though the incident of long ago happened just day before yesterday. He says "He lay on the bed with his hands folded on his breast and his eyes shut tight, like a child being good. His hair was brushed in a neat lick across his forehead. His ears, I remember, were very white." (49). He portrays his father on death-bed which is clear enough to him. He adheres to the memory of his father who is dearer to him.

Freddie reveals the incidents of his life through various sets of memory which left some remarkable impact. He subsequently recalls his involvement in a bitter argument with his mother on the pictures and says "they were mine, my inheritance, my future and my son's future." (56). He exhibits his possession on the pictures which have tied him up to life of his father and yielded in invoking the memories of his ancestors. He gets reminded to his father when he looks at the pictures. He argues to his mother to get the pictures back. He demands to know where the pictures are. He bursts out on his mother to know the truth regarding what happened to the pictures. He inquires into the rooms but he gets the pictures nowhere. Finally, he rushes to his mother to know. His mother too bursts out on him because he left the house twenty years before with no reason. Neither he nor his wife and son come to see her within these years. He leaves the house without caring about his mother and his attributes. They exchange abusive words with each other for a while. She thinks for some moment

and says that the pictures are sold to Binkie Behrens. He ponders about the Behrens, the family he came across ever since the pictures. The pictures lead to his meeting with Helmut Behrens, the father of Binkie Behrens. His father had a tussle with Helmut Behrens while collecting the pictures from house of a lady whom his grandfather had ever courted. Initially, the pictures belong to that young lady's house hanging on the walls. His father collects the pictures from the house of the lady because he was fond of those pictures. Now, he further says that the pictures belong to his father. He finds these pictures in his father's room. He spots his father with pictures some thirty or forty years before. As much as his father was so affectionate to the pictures, similarly, Freddie too is inclined towards the pictures.

Generally, Freddie recalls the incidents of his life that are intertwined with other incidents. Likewise, the memory of pictures brings another memory concerned with Freddie's life. It is the pictures that bring Anna Behrens close to him. In the beginning, when he meets Anna when both are quite young. He says "I seem to remember once at Whitewater being sent outside to play with her in the grounds. Play! That's a good one. Even in those days she had that air of detachment, of faint, remote amusement, which I have always found unnerving." (59). Freddie gets struck of the memory of Anna and recalls the moments when he meets her very first time in their young age. He always has feelings towards Anna. He is fond of her beauty and wants to spend time with her. But he departs from her soon when he moves to American. He says that he is surprised to see her again in a huge art gallery where she is working. His meeting with Anna exalts much pleasure because he reunites with his loved one who was dear to him since young age. He wanted to spend time with her delightfully when he was student. Freddie comes across two sets of memory with Anna. First, when he meets Anna in young age; she was poised, silent, and palely beautiful; she was nicknamed The Ice Queen. Second, when he settles in American with his wife; he finds her in an art gallery. He feels elevated when he finds her again. He invites her to his house for dinner so that he can spend more time with her as he used to do. He had an intimate relation with Anna since quite young age. All his feelings that were buried, he says, came out abruptly when he sees her again. Both had a great time in their student life as well as after meeting again in America. Both enjoy a lot by travelling various places in American. Freddie feels solace when he recalls his first crush with Anna. It is about his mind from

where irresistible memories of her come out and do not escape any of them barred mentioning. He delineates each moment passed with Anna gleefully. Even when he invites her to his house, he sneaks to see her beauty. He says that she is still beautiful as she was some twenty years back.

Freddie pressurizes his mind to tell something more about his memory affiliated to pictures and his life. Having coarse dispute to his mother, Freddie moves out of the house to find out where the pictures are. He does not want to let the pictures go away because they contain memories of his family. He has the only thing that he can have in form of memory living abroad. He wants to give them to his son to persist the memory of his parents. His disposition to get back the pictures is strong enough. He tries to possess them by hook or by the crook. He all of a sudden rush to Binkie Behrens's house. He takes taxi for miles and also walks along the road when Anna approaches him. She stops her car beside him and offers him to get into the car. They reach at a beautiful house. Freddie has still feelings for Anna that he could not express yet. He wants to tell her that he loves her but cannot. Freddie stays Anna's house for a while to know from Binkie about the pictures. Binkie claims his possession on the pictures and says that the pictures were sold by his (Freddie) mother. He further says that he has paid just double for the pictures to his mother. Freddie gets disillusioned hearing Binkie's such claim on pictures.

As the things around him are despicable, Freddie gets chances to look out through the window of the cell. He looks upon the changing in the seasons and the movements outside that evoke a sense of freedom to go around. The changing of the seasons provokes emotions for something or someone whom he misses a lot. Though the condition inside the cell is worse, he glimpses outside; the straggling of the schoolboys; the tree and people around it; and the movement of the vehicles on the road. He anticipates the fancy night outside which would be a world of immense delight and painstaking. Such views of outer world also evoke multiple sensations in him and appeal to reminisce those days which were passed happily without any restrictions. Moreover, Freddie tends to remember his father and says "At this time of year I often dream about my father. It is always the same dream, though the circumstances vary. The person in it is indeed my father, but not as I ever knew him. He is younger, sturdier, he is cheerful, he has a droll sense of humour." (84). Memory

of his father assists him to spots his father in the hospital-bed. He is admitted there because of a fatal disease. He accuses his father and blames him for being in such condition. He also delineates his father's activities as he is sitting up in bed with a steaming mug of tea in his hand. He sits on a chair silently beside his father for a moment and observes him watching his face closely. He shows pity on his father's condition as he just escaped from the mouth of death. He recalls his responsibilities towards his family especially towards his mother whom he has deserted without any forewarning. Subsequently, he recalls his wandering from city to village and vice-versa. The glimpse of winter and autumn, he observes being inside the cell, arouses him to recall his visit to the village. He goes to the village by hiring a taxi. The natural surroundings in the village provoke hidden emotions and feelings, and also console him. He wanders place to place aimlessly. He says that he roams in the streets with his driver, Reck, in the darkened night. As he does not find shelter to stay, he goes to the driver's house. Here, he finds Mrs. Reck who looks scary to him. He spends many days there observing nature closely from the balcony of Reck's house. He stays there until he manages to do what he wants. Meanwhile, he preconceives a plan to be figured out as soon as possible. He contrives to burgle into Binkie's house to collect his pictures. He goes to a hardware shop and buys implements that will be used during burglary.

Freddie's mind consists of memory of the fascinating and terrific incidents of his life. Nonetheless, he shares the terrific incidents that cause to feel regret for his wrongdoing. Freddie recalls the deadliest incident of his life when he was involved in crime which caused his imprisonment. He kills a woman who is a maid at the Binkie's house. He says his heart is filled with remorse and fear when he recalls the incident. Apparently, he also feels happy when he shares the fascinating incidents of his life. He endeavors to contrive a plan to be carried out by stealing the pictures from Binkie's house. He dares to go to Binkie's house to possess the pictures. He is overwhelmed with the obsession of possessing the picture which is owned by Binkie. He arranges a car by hiring it using another name. He enters the house and inspects all around. After examining everything carefully in the house, he manages to seize up the picture and run away. Unfortunately, he is discovered red-handed by a woman in the house, the situation gets reverse. Somehow, he manages to escape by taking the woman along in fear of being caught. He flings her on the car along with the picture and takes her to a

secluded place. It is not as he plans. He attacks on her with a hammer on the way when she scuffles with him. He leaves her alone on the car to die. He manages to escape smartly from the spot. He says it is the saddest moment of his life when he unwillingly kills a woman. He drives his car across the city in search of safe place where he can cast her aside. The worst thing he does when he leaves her to die over there. He feels pity for committing such heinous crime.

Freddie's memories have far-reaching impact on his life. He seems to be abundant with multiples range of memories. He shares every single memory with great enthusiasm. He misses those moments which he passed living happily. Similarly, he feels remorse for those moments which bring him distress because of his miscues that left him in desolation. It seems, accumulates the incidents of his life through his first person-narrator by reminiscing them being in the jail. He cumulates the incidents in the form of memory to please himself by recalling and may help him to prove to be innocent.

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CHAPTER-III

REVISITING THE PAST IN *THE SEA*

John Banville's novels are highly stylistic and use poetic language which exalts his characterization and depiction of the protagonists at the time of crisis in life. Banville's use of poetic language, descriptive manner in the expression of anguish of the protagonists, furnishes relevant solution to the problems by using his manner of writing and expression. He says "I am committed to language and to rhythm above plot, characterization, or pacing." His craftsmanship tends to elaborate keenly human behavior and environment. His narratives indistinctively provide with the ground on which it has to consolidate a distinctive self through style and illuminating those traits, that give his writing its distinctiveness. In Irish Literature, John Banville has invented a new scope in his narration based on the expression of the real-life incidents through the exploration of the past by recalling and by visiting. He perceives human mind and overwhelming desire that seeks a perfect place for comfort. He bestows the conceit of human mind which renders at the time of difficulty in life. He depicts psychic of his protagonists who are suffering a lot from mental stress. His narration involves the complications of the protagonists and their attempts to handle the unfavorable conditions. The protagonists are characterized and categorized on the basis of their goals and tasks which they perform to release themselves from the stress. He expresses mental conditions of his protagonists through his mastery over words.

Characterization of the shifting to the past is one of the key elements of John Banville's novel. He portrays the retreats of his protagonists to their origin place in search of consolation. Banville has written many novels in which he portrays his characters who suffer psychologically and seek appropriate place for themselves. His novels delineate strives of men who oscillate to retrieve the moments which ever rendered them to live happily in the beginning of life. The broken hearts of the protagonists tend them to escape from them current place of distress to origin place where they were living happily with their parents. He depicts his characters who return to their birthplace to sense the same experience as it was some fifty years before. Memory ameliorates them to recollect the incidents of their life by observing, smelling and touching the things around them. He tries to recapture the past moments through

his power of expression in the form of memory that are related to the places, and by visiting those places which have the capabilities as reminders. His novels such as *The Newton Letter* (1982), *The Untouchable* (1997), *Eclipse* (2000), and *The Sea* (2005) expounds his protagonists who venture to explore their birthplace. His quest for home and belonging delineates his obsession for returning home and adhering identity and authenticity. Most of his works frequently include the journey of the distinguished characters to the same place having different purposes. Retreating to the place of origin, is to enter a strange world which consists, to some extent, a bunch of good and bad memories including some severely affecting incidents. As in *Ancient Light* (2012), the protagonist comprehends two losses in his life: one is of his daughter, and the other is of his girlfriend. He gets reminded them fifty years after by returning to Irish coastal town. He efficiently portrays pains of life of his protagonists who are suffering because of loss any dear or intimate. They try to shift away from the place where they are living. As in *The Sea*, the protagonist, Max Morden, suffers a lot after the death of his wife. He finds himself in miserable situation after the death of his wife which torments him from inside. He decides to leave the city life for mental stability.

Banville's quest for the identical place, apart from the contemporary which is scathing, instigates him to look through the memories of the past days. Although he does not want his protagonists to live solely in the past, he insists to make analogy with the two arenas of life. He allows his protagonists to have experience of two different worlds. He then distinguishes good one among them. He states: "The past is all we have. The present is an abstraction, the future is mere potential. What has happened. It's in the past that we live." He reinforces the idea of moving back which is, according to him, a better place for anyone. He also accentuates the places of childhood days over the places of city life. He acclaims the experience of childhood retaining good or bad memories and having capacity to release stresses. He corroborates his idea in his novels with the movement of the protagonists from place to place, who ultimately find the origin place more pleasing. According to Banville, incidents of childhood are more important. They create trauma on human mind and prolong to the rest of life. As in an interview, Banville states: "children should be loaded with as much trauma as they can bear, because it good for them." He discusses trauma as part of human life relating to human mind which assists to keep in touch with the incidents of life and remains longer

as the form of memory.

Banville's works predict his favor in writing about the past. He also emphasizes nostalgia as a key element which amends to adhere the past. Since, nostalgia is made up of desire to return home. His protagonists seem obsessed and having always been in the mode of returning home for consolation. Most of his protagonists have inherent feelings regarding boyhood, and depository of incidents which aggregate abstractly to form levels of nostalgia. He constitutes, in most of his books, an intense and overwhelming emotion called nostalgia, which is yearning for the past. Nostalgia seems appealing to as a means of spiritual salvation. Apparently, his protagonists retrospect the old places that appear escaping for redemption. Banville creates a world which involves such characters who are alienated, extremely sensitive and suffering from mental and spiritual confusion and distortion. In most of the cases, his heroes are either overburdened under the pressure of life that is too much for them, or the struggle of some crisis caused by severely mishaps. Though the present life does not have anything favorable, it is extremely enough for them. Therefore, it is quite natural for them to anticipate something better from the past. These protagonists usually return to their favorite places in retrospection, and eventually the subsisting physical objects evoke nostalgia such as the smell of the house, remaining of the destroyed buildings, natural surroundings, and the wide sea. Unlike the protagonists of other novelists, Banville's protagonists are caught in remembering the happenings of early days. They prefer to recall any of the moments by staring eagerly to the objects which may have inherent memory and tend to give momentary happiness. They get delighted to live in the past more often than that of present, as the unbearable failure they must be facing in the real world. As in *Eclipse*, Banville's protagonist, Alexander Cleave, a middle-aged man, leaves an impression of nostalgia of his childhood. He undergoes a lot of mental agonies in his real life and chooses not to live anymore where he is. He then approaches to childhood home. Cleave moves to his childhood house, keeping distance from the harsh and brutal reality. He always prefers to live in his memory and ravishing the past. While dwelling in his old house, he gets struck in two chaotic and painful worlds: the old and the new, the past and the present.

Unlike other writers' protagonists, John Banville's protagonists choose coastal villages or towns, consisting natural surroundings especially the sea area, which have

the potential to console them. These natural surroundings arouse feelings and emotions related to childhood days. Banville's depiction of the sea, since it is considered as prominent natural entity and the source of life, relieves from all pains. In Irish literature, there are various novelists, who have recognized the importance of the sea. The novels such as Dermot Bolger's *Temptation* (2000), John Banville's *The Sea* (2005), and Ian McEwan's *On Chesil Beach* (2007) are based on the protagonists' lives revolving around the sea. Since the country is surrounded with the big sea. Its longer coastal line is the source of various novelists' inspiration of novel writings. Different novels have different expectations from the sea. Some of the novels tend to the sea for the enjoyment of the protagonists, some of them depict the wedding celebrations, and some of them appeal to soothe their protagonists who return to mourn over the death of loved ones or over another big loss. Therefore, the function of the sea is as a setting of childhood memories and for an escape from the other civilization. It seems that the sea operates as a maker of the characters in the novels. The protagonists of the novels rush to the beach where they ever rented lodge to accommodate themselves with their parents during the holidays. They frequently visit the beach every day and observe its beauty with their vigilant eyes. In *The Book of Evidence* (1989), the protagonist, Freddie Montgomery, while visiting to his hometown, approaches to the sea to relieve himself from the stresses of city life. In *Ancient Light*, the protagonist is tormented by the death of his daughter and girlfriend, eventually rushes to the sea beach to mitigate his anguish. John Banville's *The Sea* is a prominent text which vividly portrays the beauty of the sea. The sea is considered as a progenitor of the protagonist's life. Max Morden begins his life living around the sea. Throughout the novel, the sea is a major natural entity which becomes basis of his life. Max states: "Down here, by the sea, there is a special quality to the silence at night. I do not know if this is my doing, I mean if this quality is something I bring to the silence of my room, and even of the whole house, or if it is a local effect, due to the salt in the air, perhaps, or the seaside climate in general." (71) Banville delineates the beauty and calmness of the sea as something which may have capacity to soothe the whole humanity.

John Banville's *The Sea* is a major text concerning the life journey of its bildungsroman protagonist who wants to move away from his surroundings in search of tranquility. It depicts Irish mentality and sufferings as well as promotes awareness of

complexity of real life which contains pains and distress. The writer belongs to Ireland where people face mental sufferings due to the loss and boredom. He shares similar embroilment referring the memory of childhood place as extinguisher for all these torments. The novel revolves around an art historian, Max Morden, who suffers from mental agonies and executes numerous plans to get away from these. The novel bears the obsession of its protagonist who adherently decides to return his home, especially to the rented lodge named, the Cedar. The house carries nostalgia and experience of his early life which seems as an important event ever. He prefers to visit those places which have nostalgia of his childhood days. He wants to smell, touch and observe again the vanishing images which ever had drastic impact in his life. Initially, Banville puts his protagonist in the perplexity of life then finds ways to get him out of this. The bewilderments of life echo throughout the novel in terms of death of the dearest and the desertion of family member. The sea in the novel *The Sea* plays a vital role in life of the protagonist. It functions as a reminder and assists him to remember vividly all the events of his life. He observes the movement of the sea: rising and falling waves raise multiple notes in his heart. He vividly states: "All morning under a milky sky the waters in the bay had swelled and swelled, rising to unheard-of heights, the small waves creeping over parched sand that for years had known no wetting save for rain and lapping the bases of the dunes." (01) He grows up in the salty air of the sea from childhood to adulthood until he moves to the city. He wants to return again the coastal village where he used to come with his parents during holidays. He travels back to a place called, Ballyless, a seaside village where he spent summers as a youth. He gets reminded everything related to his early life when he observes old building contemporary to his boyhood and the house where he used to live. The sounds produced by the swelling of the sea, he hears, rejuvenate the incidents of life. He suspends himself while watching towards the sea and sitting on the dunes of the coast. He always refers the past moment as he hears the noises coming out of the sea. The past seems an integral body organ which strikes intermittently. He considers the past as his heartbeat. He himself states: "The past beats inside me like a second heart." (13)

The novel opens with the protagonist looking at the sea from a house near the coast. He observes the swelling of the weaves and turning pebbles at the sea which reminds him the scuffles of life. He has come back to this place in search of relief from

the distress that he acknowledges after the death of his wife. He commemorates his childhood days at this place when he was living here with his parents and with the Grace family that was dear to him after his parents. He spends most of his times with the Grace family especially with Chloe who was his first girlfriend ever. Max prefers to live here having two different lives: first his boyhood life which he gets reminded after sensing his surroundings, and the second his present life which he has consisting of a lot of unforgettable moments of recent time. He sees the view of the sea from the window of the house, the Cedars, which now belongs to Miss Vavasour. Initially, he portrays the geographical position of the house observing some minor change in it, and delineates the surroundings which being possessed nature's beauty to some extent. He extols the beauty of the locality and even finds no major change in its milieu. He says: "I am amazed at how little has changed in the more than fifty years that have gone by since I was last here." (04) He retreats to the house with a lot of expectations which he hopes to get. The past memories of his life that the house kept alive, he trusts, would supply him several unnoticed events which he could not get during city life. He himself states: "I who have come back to live amidst the rubble of the past?" (04) The house ravishes him a lot and retains the foremost moments of his life that were getting missed. The house is considered as a summer house where many families come to spend summer days. Max too, with his family, comes over here. He comes across several new families each year. He says:

When I was here all those years ago, in the time of the gods, the Cedars was a summer house, for rent by the fortnight or the month. During all the June each year a rich doctor and his large, raucous family infested it- we did not like the doctor's loud-voiced children, they laughed at us and threw stones from behind the unbreachable barrier of the gate- and after them a mysterious middle-aged couple came, who spoke to no one, and grimly walked their sausage dog in silence at the same time every morning down Station Road to the strand. August was the interesting month at the Cedars, for us. The tenants then were different each year, people from England or the Continent, the odd Pair of honeymooners whom we would try to spy on, and once even a fit-up troupe of itinerant theatre people who were putting on an afternoon show in the village's galvanised-in cinema. And then, that year, came the family, Grace. (5-6)

Max remembers how he comes across many families in his boyhood at the Cedar. Each family has different characteristic who are visiting the house. He visits the Cedar in the summer time when other families also visit the house. He portrays the families including a doctor's family having naughty children who throw stones on his house, a mysterious middle-aged couple having dog, honeymooners, and the Grace family. The Grace family too stays at the Cedar in summer. According to him, the Graces are the most important family who gives him a bunch of memory of adulthood at the Cedar. Moreover, they offer him to spend most of time with them. He shares various moments which he experiences living around them. After getting devastated by the desertion of his father in childhood, he could not tolerate the critical condition of his mother. He cannot manage to maintain tranquility in his house. His mother, in fit of madness, cries out on him most of the time. He leans to the Grace family. He spends time with them enjoying picnic at the seaside. He attracts first towards the beauty of Mrs. Grace and seduces her secretly when he gets chance. Max possesses a long last relation with the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grace, Chloe. She is an adorable daughter with her twin brother, Myles. Both always live together when he notices them.

Max's life is greatly influenced by the people around him at the early stage of life. They mostly affect him because he engages himself with them to find, in part, enjoyment of life. He holds emotions in terms of memory pertaining to loved ones around him who ever shared unforgettable moments with him. Initially, Max's visit to this house rekindles inner self for beholding upon the things around him. He falls in nostalgia which strikes in his mind intermittently. The events of the past start recollecting his mind. His mind is getting filled with multiples memories of childhood and adulthood days. His numeration of nostalgias at the Cedar is more exciting than that of the city which left nothing but distress and shock all the time. He finds himself captivated with the memory at the coastal village. The beauty of the surroundings along the sea is enthusiastic for him. The beauty around the Cedar, as always, is fascinating and inculcating mental stability. Notwithstanding he has a life full of luxurious things, he decides to discard this temporary merrymaking luxurious city's life. The city could not assist him to get away from the all kinds of agony especially the death of his wife. He finds himself indulged with the past which left behind. He believes that the memory of past along with naturally rich coastal village will help improve his critical

mental imbalance. He states: "So much of life was stillness then, when we were young." (12) He feels energized while being surrounded with nature. He states: "Behind him I could see all the way down the narrow garden at the back of the house to the diagonal row of trees skirting the railway line." (11). He also observes the arrival of the Graces in the rented house. As it is a summer house, the Graces have come to spend summer. He notices them since they have arrived because the family has two beautiful ladies. He has strong feeling for woman as he cannot get affection from any woman, even from his mother. Whenever he gets chance, he peeps inside the house to see them. He hears the voice of girls and sound of running barefoot upstairs. He spots Mr. Grace coming hurriedly out of the house to get something from his car holding a wine glass in his hand. He also beholds one the twins, Myles, hanging on the gate when his parents heading towards the town in their car. He recalls other tenants and neighborhood like Colonel Blunden who lives next to his room. Colonel is a politician as well as a weird man who puts his eyes on Max's activities. Duignan, the dairyman, gives milk to Max. He is a local guy. He tells him mysterious stories of the village. Miss Vavasour, now owner of the house, was mistress at the Graces when Max was intimate to the family. When she was young, she took care of the twins. The life of Max also gets affected by Miss Vavasour. She watches him when he seduces Mrs. Grace and Chloe. Max remembers how he spends time when he is free. The seaside is the most loving place where he sits hours beholding towards swelling tides of the sea. He says "I walked down Station Road in the sunlit emptiness of afternoon. The beach at the foot of the hill was a fawn shimmer under indigo. At the seaside all is narrow horizontals, the world reduced to a few ling straight lines pressed between earth and sky." (10)

Subsequently, he remembers his wife's critical situation when she was on the brink of life and death; he took her hospital. Max mentions weird name, De' Arth, the consultant, famously known as Mr. Todd, was treating his wife. He recalls the hospital where both had visited to consult with the doctor until his wife passes away. His wife was suffering from a severe incurable disease. He says that he inspects the doctor's office that seemed a room-cum-hospital. Outside the office, he observes, the city that looks beautiful including the oak trees and beech. The surroundings of the hospital evoke nostalgia of his school time after the summer holidays, the feel of brand-new schoolbooks and the somehow bode full smell of ink and pared pencil. He finds his

wife sitting in front of the doctor resting her hands in her lap for advice. The pale face of his wife yields him to look up the doctor, however, he knows the reality of her sickness. The doctor's hesitancy, tending him to figure out the reality that is happening with his wife, he never expected. He shares fear that he observes in his wife's eyes while doing conversation with her consultant. The doctor assuages her to lessen down worry about her disease, but she cannot control her emotion. He asks "is it the death sentence, or do I get life?" (16) Max fears too what will happen with her? Max then takes her to home. After returning from the doctor, he remembers his house where he finds things scattered all around; the utensils are displaced in the kitchen. He finds her little upset and weeping on her miserable condition. Both converse on their life which is truly simple that as they are living together. He then offers her wine to drink which she accepts but drinks nothing. He perceives her desperate mode when he abruptly moves away and sits heavily near the window. His worries about his wife's health compel him to think life without his wife would be mere a ruined land.

Max suddenly shifts from the memory of his wife to the Graces when Miss Vavasour, in present, arranges his bed and he finds Colonel creeping back to his room. He thinks over the Graces who were living upstairs. He says that he never dares to go upstairs where the Graces were living, except in dream. His eyes first follow Mrs. Grace, Constance, hanging out near the garden with other members of the family. He suddenly gets reminded, once when he hangs out, the family too approaches the beach. The twin is playing on the sand dunes, Mrs. Grace is bathing in the sea, and Mr. Grace is reading newspaper sitting on a folding chair. From the distance, Max observes the activities of all the members. He pretends as not looking at them by engaging himself in the book. He conceives that the family has come to enjoy picnic because they have brought my things including a small suitcase containing bottles and vacuum flasks, tins of sandwiches and biscuits, and the real tea cups with saucers. He looks them instantly. The eyes of Max fix first to the beauty of Mrs. Grace who is just coming out of the sea by wrapping herself in towel. He is captivated by the bodily charm of the lady Grace. He looks furtively through the books. He then spots Chloe who later becomes his girlfriend. He says: "I first saw her, Chloe Grace, on the beach. It was bright, wind-worried day and the Graces were settled in a shallow recess scooped into the dunes by wind and tides to which their somewhat raffish presence lent a suggestion of the

proscenium.” (26) Chloe, he finds her, kneeling on the sand wrapped herself in a big red towel. He notices her closely when she is trying to unwrap herself from the wet bathing suit. She seems markedly pale and soulful of expression with a long slender face and heavy black hair. Chloe too watches Max and others standing on the dunes. He then notices the boy, Myles, bothering her sister playfully. Myles holding a stick in his hand is driving it uselessly into the sand and pinching his sister with it. They strive to snatch the stick from each other. Finally, Myles wins in snatching the stick. Another girl, he notices, is a mistress named Rose who manages all the things they have for the picnic and cries on the twin when they behave badly. The family enjoys the picnic on the beach. Mr. and Mrs. Grace smoke cigarette together as well as take wine. Members of the family except Mr. Grace are playing games by throwing the ball on the head of one another. Max enjoys them playing and the beauty of both ladies: Mrs. Grace and Chloe.

Abruptly, memory of his parents, when he used to come here with them, strikes in his mind. Max shifts from the memory of the Graces to his parents. He says “We holidayed here every summer, my father and mother and I. We would not have put it that way.” (34) He recalls his first visit with his parent to this village, Ballymore, in his childhood some fifty years ago. The rented house was a small old-fashioned mansion consisting three small rooms and a living room along with a kitchen. He notices the ceiling of the house was sloped undersides of the tarpapered roof. He gets delighted when his mother asks him to go around for bringing something. He shares the very violent nature of his father who always seems in fury. Max’s father often goes to the village to earn money and returns bearing frustration of the day. The relationship between his father and mother was not nourishing well because of his father’s furious nature towards his mother and him. For Max, those days appears the days of childhood of his parents. Now, he considers himself older than his parents and others who were with his on this place. He states: “How strange a thing that is to think of. Everybody seems to be younger than I am, even the dead.” (35) He is over fifty when he gets a chance to visit this place again. Memory of childhood seems closer to him as happened just shortly before. He sees his parents playing resentfully at house in the childhood of the world. Their unhappiness is marked by his earliest years that passed restlessly. Max then remembers his visit to the sea along with parents for bathing as with the Graces.

He along with father and mother bathes in the sea. His mother is not too much interested in bathing like other women. His father is fair swimmer who draws violently first to his mother then him. He never likes his father's attitude because he is being rude all the time. But, Max says, he loves his parents a lot. The memory of his family and the Graces strikes in his mind intermittently. Being at the beach, he enjoys them bathing and also recalls his bathing with his parents. Playing of the twins on the sand dunes evokes his childhood memory playing like them.

The shifting of memory can simply be traced in Banville's novels. His protagonists cannot adhere to a single memory. They leap up to other memories related to the same person or place. The smell of the things or the place evokes other memories adjacent to the first one. He switches on various memories simultaneously. The protagonist, Max, frequently transposes in other period to reveal the hidden incidences in form of memories to figure out his authenticity. He has a bunch of memories that come out of the real facts of early days of life including the happenings of sooner and later days. Max is fervently attached to his own daughter, Claire. She is disappointed with her father's decision who wants to dwell on the past in terms of memory. She asks him you live in the past. He replies "Life, authentic life, is supposed to be all struggle, unflagging action and affirmation, the will butting its blunt head against the world's wall, suchlike, but when I look back, I see that the greater part of my energies was always given over to the simple search for shelter, for comfort, for, yes, I admit, it, for cosiness." (60) He rebukes her for disturbing him when he prefers to move to those places of his early and later childhood life. He portrays his daughter who is, a twenty-two-year-old bright woman, akin to her mother. His daughter has accompanied him Ballyless for the first time after his wife's death. He then reminisces about his long-drive journey with his daughter when she was a kid. He takes her various places where he ever lived in childhood or in adulthood. He and his daughter are fond of expedition. Most of his journey is to explore the places and related memories to these places over a period of time. He recalls his one of journeys when he goes on a motoring holiday with his daughter when she was an adolescent. She gets bored with vineyards and chateaux. He returns without appeasing his appetite of seeing his old place. He makes a trip again with his daughter. He reaches to a village and he states "When we arrived I marveled to see how much of the village as I remember it was still here, if only for eyes that knew

where to look, mine, that is. It was encountering an old flame behind whose features thickened by age the slender lineaments that a former self so loved can still be clearly discerned.” (46-47) His sojourn to the place surprises him after observing drastic change in the places. Notwithstanding, it undergoes the old experiences which he ever felt. He observes the gravity of the place which draws his attention regarding numerous undivided attachments to this place. He wants no longer abstained from the reality of his life. He knows the importance of the past therefore he cries out on his daughter in his mind “let me alone..., let me creep past the traduced old Cedars, past the vanished Strand Café, past the Lupins and the Field that was, past all this past, for if I stop I shall surely dissolve in a shaming puddle of tears.” (50-51)

He prefers to roam in the past so as he can experience it again. He is strongly indulged to live in the past recalling the memories regarding the places. He gives an example of his keenness to explore the past. Once he goes to an expedition with his daughter to find someone who was intimate to him in his childhood. He goes to a farmhouse where a dairyman, Duignan, used to live with his parents. Max has a plenty memory related to Duignan. In his childhood, Max used to go to buy milk from him. He says “Here as a boy I would walk down every morning, barefoot and bearing a dented billycan, on my way to buy the day’s milk from Duignan the dairyman or his stoically cheerful, big-hipped wife.” (50) The condition of the dairy farm was unacceptable and things were scattered all around including chicken-shits, dog lying, and a dirty white horse cart. He portrays the other members of the house who look scary except Duignan. Duignan has smiley face with a thin hair and invisible eyelashes. He usually asks Max about his first girlfriend. Max hesitates to replay since he was a kid. He never dared to inter the house. Duignan’s mother used to stare him from the window of the house. Duignan’s life is significant because he used to tell Max many magical or fairytales of the village. He never forgets the window panes dirtied over or broken or grass growing on the roof. Max’s inherent desire to peep again into the past kindles him to enquire the farmhouse after fifty years. He says “Now here I was at the farm gate again, the child of those days grown corpulent and half-grey and almost old.” (53) Max approaches to the farmhouse when grows old. Being an old man, he tries to recollect those moment again that left blurred. Here at the farmhouse, he finds a elderly young woman, Avril. He tries to interact with her who is standing inside the window

glass. She is not akin to Duignan. She does not recognize the name, Duignan. Max narrates her about his intimacy to Duignan and also asks what happened to the farm as well as the mother and daughter. The lady informs him about the daughter who died young, was Christy Duignan. She adds that her mother is still alive. She is admitted in a nursing home somewhere along the coast.

Max loiters in his memory remembering the important peoples. He once again returns to the memory of the Graces family. Despite the day has passed before, he remains struck to the significant moments with them. In another memory, he penetrates in his mind to view another clear the picture of the past. Max remembers one important moment when he gets a chance to enter the room of the Graces. He first walks around the house for a glimpse of Mrs. Grace, but could not find. He then determines to enter the house to get introduced with them. He passionately searches for Mrs. Grace being attracted towards her physical charm. When the door remains opened, he dares to enter the house to look, to smell and to touch the same thing as Mrs. Grace occasionally do. Moreover, he can observe the twins, a weird creation, who live together all the time. They look same by face and have common interests. He imagines that they could be tied and bound to each other. They might feel things in common, pains, emotions, and fears. They might even think and dream the same thing. He finds Myles as a mute boy since birth. Max never met such guy who did not utter single word. The twins are spotted at Strand Café and he follows them before he is followed. He says he never encountered any twins in the flesh in his life. They are brother and sister and so cannot be identical having one mind two bodies. Max finds himself under the surveillance of Rose who keeps her eyes on him most of the time. Myles is always found in doing something unusual and Chloe in dismay. Entering the house, Max inspects the room since he never dared to cross the threshold and talks to Mrs. Grace and the other family members who are around him. Chloe sits beside him and converses him about many things of life. Max concentrates on Mrs. Grace who looks beautiful and arranging the flowers on the table. She sits near him and offers him juice and fruits to eat. Max is surrounded with other family members who are engaged in their works.

Banville argues that whatever dreams and images we have about our future in childhood, they generally discrete in adulthood. Max also dreams about his future in his childhood which is subtly different in present as he saw. He states: “when I consider

the matter closely, I see that the version of the future that I pictured as a boy had an oddly antique cast to it. The world in which I live now would have been, in my imagining of it then, for all my perspicacity, different from what it is in fact.” (p. 95)

Like other boys, Max foresees his future to be flourished. However, the pictures of the future foreseen in childhood are not corresponding exactly when he grows up. The pictures of the childhood about future now have become as fantasies. Those days of the past, especially the childhood when dreams usually struck in the mind, are now solely the truth of life. The already gone past days concerning to his childhood is now furnishing a bunch of nostalgia of those days. The glimpse of future seen in childhood appears distinct as a dreadful present when his wife deserts him on the way of life. He wonders that people have dreams in their childhood to be what they would become when they grow-up. Most of the children live their childhood picturing an ideal world for their own. Max too draws solid pictures of his future in childhood. Max in his childhood was very precise and definite in his expectations. He says that he never wanted to become an engine driver or a famous explorer. Now, after serving as an architect, he is retired from the exhaustive race of life being detached from the social responsibilities. Curious to know everything in the outset life has been resolved and the difficult questions of early stage answered when he comes at the age of adulthood. The puzzles and mysteries of life that ever troubled him a lot in childhood because of the least awareness got gradually settled. He further says that old age is extremely calm and uncurious in terms of having a lot of experiences of life. Problems that a person ever faced in childhood and adulthood get ultimately terminated. Despite being accomplished with all sorts of requirement that he wanted in childhood and in young age, Max observes insufficiency and dullness in staying at a place. Past is a stimulating entity that ameliorates to survive the rest of life, however, he has nothing in hand except the memory of his wife and childhood. Max remembers a dreadful time period when his wife was closer to her death. He says he cannot forget that moment which has shaken him from inside. His wife, Anna, being in great trouble, could not be quietened. He says “We went back over our earliest days together reminding, correcting, helping each other, like two ancients tottering arms-in arm along the ramparts of a town where they had once lived, long ago.” (99) Since, Max obviously knows the importance of the past. He usually calms down his agitation by retreating back to the places again and remembering the incidents of life.

Max gradually deepens in his thoughts and memories concerned to his life. The incidents of life are deliberately recollecting in his mind to fuse with the past and present. He also presses on his mind to bring forth the nostalgia of the happenings which have caused a lesser impact. He remembers his wedding day to Anna. He says “We recalled especially the smoky London Summer in which we met and married.” (100) The remembrance of his marriage ceremony at London kindles the memory of his wife who is dead now. According to him, she looks so pretty amongst the guests when he gets a chance to see her first time. He says “I spotted Anna first at party in someone’s flat one chokingly hot afternoon... It was the size of her that first caught my attention.” (100). The physical charm of her captivates his attention. He proposes her so as he has decided to continue life with her. Anna’s father gives his consent after enquiring about Max and his family background. For Max, marrying to Anna was fulfilling the dream which he ever had after seeing Mrs. Grace. Subsequently, he switches to the beauty of Mrs. Grace who is equally attractive to his wife. He meets Mrs. Grace first when he was in adulthood. Her bulky thighs draw his attention and lure him to render intention. Like his wife, Mrs. Grace is calm, decent and unique amongst the women around him. The intimacy with the Grace ameliorates him to moves closer to his first ever girlfriend, Chloe. He sees Chloe since beginning, but he is attracted first towards the mother. He gets a golden opportunity when he is invited to join the family for picnic to the beach near the Cedar. He says “The picnic. We went that afternoon in Mr. Grace’s racy motor car far down the Burrow, all the way to where the paved road ended.” (109) Max being introduced with the Graces becomes mutual to the twins. He spends most of his time with them. Max’s mother usually rebukes him for his intimacy with the Graces, and says that he will be betraying her like his father. Max spends times mostly with the Graces in their house instead of his own. He is the only person who comes from the other family and gets mixed with the elite family. Moreover, he enjoys with the twins as well as with Mrs. Grace. The family takes a lot of food for picnic and other necessary things such as folding chair, tablecloth, and newspapers which Mr. Grace Usually reads. He observes Mrs. Grace who lights a big cigarette putting it between her lips. Mr. Grace has brought wine bottles which he shares with his wife. Both are renowned drunker. He notices Rose who was not with him in the car. She has come by driving her bicycle that she keeps away in the bush. The twins always behave as though they are restless souls. They kept fighting throughout the way in the car.

Nevertheless, Myles's father and mother scold him for misbehaving with his sister, but he remains indifferent. He starts playing entering the bush to hide himself and appears suddenly to frighten his sister and Rose. On the other hand, he sees Chloe who always prefer to live alone and is found in gloomy. Initially, Max does not like Chloe because she has not an incentive figure like her mother. However, Max is one among them, he observes them sitting on the corner of the tablecloth.

Max succumbs himself to the overwhelming nostalgias which occasionally fills his mind and cause to chuckle and displeasure. Considering deeply about its importance, he forgets the illusions of the real world. He always takes himself back to explore again which might have been cause of happiness. He anticipates for a better world out of all maladies which always troubled him. Regardless to be submerged in the distressful memories of missing, he seeks to get out of it. Therefore, he roams in the nostalgias of others who gave him merry moments. Although the memories of others bring him happiness. He is not able to remove completely the day of misfortunes that he confronts twice in his life. He opines that memory give a new experience to life. However, the great day of childhood brings dimensions in life which can be experienced later. He says "Happiness was different in childhood. It was so much then a matter simply of accumulation, of taking things- new experiences, new emotions- and applying them like so many polished tiles." (144) Banville utters that childhood is a fantastic stage of life where we have happiness of different level in comparison with the happiness of manhood. The experiences of childhood are extraordinary in terms of social and familial responsibilities. As Max has attained maximum age of his life span, he makes analogy of the experiences of two different stages of life. According to him, manhood is a stage of life with maximum responsibilities including the happiness. As he has said that the puzzles of life get resolved in manhood, but the childhood is the stage of maximum happiness and full of pictures of the future. He determines to adhere with memory of early times. Unlike other boy or person, his childhood is occupied with a lot of ups and downs. He confronts desertion of his father and death of his girlfriend. He encounters the sudden death of his girlfriend by drowning who was close to his heart. Subsequently, Max is compelled to memorize his beloved who was the member of the Graces family. Memory of his relationship with Chloe was enormously fruitful. He spends a lot of time by sitting on the sand dunes near the beach and bathing with her in

the sea. He misses not a single chance to disorient Myles who never leaves his sister alone. Both hide themselves from the sight of Myles to spend more time. Max finds Chloe waiting for him when they go to the sea for bathing. Max terminates his attention from Mrs. Grace and starts dating Chloe taking her to the beach. He determines not tell Chloe that she is his second girlfriend after her mother. She was not so beautiful as her mother. Rather, she appeared like boy with a flat body. He portrays her like a girl whose teeth were green and her breath had apple smell. He says he did not care about her physical appearance. Both share romantic moment of their life. Moreover, he kisses her first time when he takes her to the theatre. Max continues to spend time with Chloe. Another romantic moment spending with each other, he recalls that he along with her travels to the waterline at the beach when Chloe pulls him and kisses him in front of people who have come here for bathing. Myles always sees them chuckling and chatting.

Journey of Max to a place which he wishes to be destination of his life in the exploration of past days, is the lodge where he used to live partially with his parents and with the Graces. He discovers that he can tranquilize his discontent emotions when he would reach the house. He says “When Miss Vavasour left me in what from now was to be *my room* I threw my coat over a chair and sat down on the side of the bed breathed deep the stale un-lived-in air, and felt that I had been travelling for a long time, for years, and had at last arrived at the destination” (157) The house contains a lot of memories of Max’s life which he does not want to get rid of. He hires the same room of the house which the Graces ever hired for summer holidays. He inspects the condition of the room which is slightly changed from its earlier condition. Although the room reflects a bunch of memories regarding his family and other tenants specifically the Graces. He knows that the inner turmoil can be subdued by visiting the same house. Max has undergone various situation in his life connected to many façades of people. Incidents or coincident has rendered him to handle circumstances and sustain even in adverse condition. But his psychic does not allow his to cope up with that situation. He seeks to give mental content which might become by returning to the place of origin of the childhood. He lives amongst many people of different kinds but they are not able to give him mental calmness. He cannot comfort himself living in his own house. He says “Perhaps I am learning to live amongst the living again. Practising, I mean. But no, that

is not it. Being here is just a way of not being anywhere.” (192) Since he has retreated to his childhood home, he finds himself no longer distracted or restless. He has achieved a place of solace and end of frustrating life-journey by getting accommodation here.

Max keeps remembering about his beloved and his wife interchangeably. On the one hand, he dissolves in the memory of his beloved Chloe who was dear to him before he left the summer house for city, and on the other hand, he recalls the ill face of his wife who was on the brink of death. His wife was a playful woman who never annoyed him throughout his life. He had a fixed viewpoint for her whole life. He recalls Chloe with whom he lived momentous life in the very beginning. Max shares that he spent most of the time of his childhood with Chloe in walking along the beach and watching movies in the theatre. He missed her a lot when he had separated from her. When he comes to know about her sudden death by drowning in the river, he gets into depression for a period of time. He feels the same when he comes to know about his wife’s fatal disease which has brought her on the brink of death. He similarly gets into depression. Memories of two special personalities bound him to leave the annoying place and he wishes to explore once again the places which have had a collection of memories of his life. Max also seeks to establish his identity through the exploration of self being engaged with different kinds of persons. He begins from the childhood through adulthood to the old age. He discovers himself in his childhood as an inexperienced boy having puzzles of life in the beginning, which could not be resolved in childhood. He then lives a vast young age when the puzzles of his life get resolved. He has a plenty of memories of his young age which strike intermittently at old age. He improves his individuality amongst the ample profound personalities. However, he was a famous and professional architect who served whole life. Old age is an age of experience for Max. He first finds all the puzzled resolved along with the plenty experiences of whole life. He recollects memories of childhood and adulthood as well as searches for his identity which is requisite for a man. Banville gives Max capacity to inspect his life and the memories of half of the life, would help him to live rest of the life, and substantiate his social importance.

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CONCLUSION

Memory and reminiscence provide a balance journey to human mind especially those who were dissatisfied with their present life and want to bring memory of past in present. Memory assists to look again into the life to a great extent and provides a bunch of good and bad memories. Memory and reminiscence amalgamate experiences of life and give a solid platform to live peacefully in old age. It brings days of childhood and adulthood, either good or bad, when one start recalling those days with help of memory. Human mind is full of various nostalgias and experiences of early days may occur when a person requires them. He may recall events which have pleased him and also shaken him from inside. The childhood desires which could not be fulfilled due to some reasons, through memory and reminiscence, one may try to fulfill them. With the help of memory, one may recall the best moments spent among friends, parents, and loved ones. Memory assists to remember beloved who is not alive or no longer available to him.

The present research tries to bring out the significance of memory as it affects various of stages of life and helps to investigate life thoroughly with the help of many available information pertinent to incidents. The memory of early days comprises pleasure and pain which emphasize to investigate own life. The pleasant and unpleasant memories enlist the moment of various types which ever experienced. The ecstasy to know about the past delineates to solve the problems of early days and to find out how life was in childhood or adulthood. A person gets pleasure in recalling and reminiscing about the past dwelling upon memory so that he can observe childhood again through old-age experiences. The remembrance of those days bound a person to rummage the mistakes of life which he has committed unwillingly. Memory help one to count good and bad deed which had been done earlier in childhood. A person with assistance of memories seeks for loved one and loving places which are dear to him. He recalls his journey to various places with friends and family impacted him a lot. Losing of the dearest echoes in the mind intermittently causing distress, can be cured when one begins to recall happy days lived with loved ones. He feels happy when he starts dwelling upon memories of that person who is no more. Sometimes one does not happy with present and the local surroundings which are disturbing and distressing, because development has destroyed natural landscape. He prefers to live in memory which is

furnished with naturally surrounded landscape. Memory and reminiscence bring to preserve missing moments of childhood and adulthood. Memory may occur at any stage of life and a person uses the memory of all stage to inspect his early life deeds. A child can possess memory of recently passed day and a young man can retain memory from childhood to till present time. Retaining memory is a continuous process throughout life. One can attain memory of major or minor incidents at any age anytime and can be utilized later at will. Memory that subsists in human mind sometimes seeks a fixed place where a person ever lived long before. The old belongings of the place encourage him to dip down in reminiscence regarding the place and own life. It pours out a plenty of memory related to life and even provides a fresh feeling of that old feelings.

Identity of a man can be ensured by providing authentic evidences from the past or from existing society. Memory assists to collect evidences when a person inspects thoroughly his social interactions, agreement, disagreement. He discovers people around him whom he met earlier and had relation ever. Each person retains own personal identity, and personal memory which gives him a unique identity. Memory is important for everyone to be identified in society and among colleagues. Meeting and talking to the persons who were ever close to him in childhood or adulthood, may help for social recognition. He searches for them can substantiate his identity. Thus, memories are one of the important factors for self-identity. Memory and identity occur together when a person oscillates on the brink of self-identity with help of memory. Memory is pivotal to ascertain identity of the person. It supports to recall his social interactions and communal negotiation. Reminiscence compels the person to experience the same circumstance which he ever endured. It compels him to move around and search for the people who were close to him.

Thoughts, feelings and motivations are important for a person who prefer to live life on memories and reminiscences. The emotional reaction and internal state of a person are influenced by triggering external things which inculcate impression of memory and reminiscence for later use. The expression of the inner life of a person is a fundamental element. He reveals himself when he finds consolation anywhere. Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan discuss about human psychology and mental states. They discuss that human psychology is operated by his intention and personal desire.

The mind of a man contains multiple thoughts and desires. Thoughts and desires of a man sometimes revealed, and sometimes repressed in narratives, and human mind remains vulnerable. It may absorb serious or pleasurable incidents in mind as memory for long time. Later, a man prefers to dwell on his memories. Lacan argues that human mind may hang on either good or bad things, which preserved in unconscious mind for long time. It can be retrieved when he comes across with similar situation ahead. He says that the acts of childhood influence whole life in present and in future. According to him, unconscious mind which stores previously experienced events may come spontaneously when the same situation is experienced again in present or in future

Memories and reminiscences assist in escaping from the unsuitable moments of life which trouble a lot. A person experiences troubles of life in present which would come from his past deeds or loss of dearest thing. He seeks comfortable place so that he may come out these adverse situations. He expects a better world which would allow him to settle the restlessness ever experienced in life. Existential philosophy contends that human mind seeks for freedom from all refrainment. It moves to the world where there is no social boundaries and other limitations. It asserts that a person has right to live free life and, can look for a better world for himself. He may prefer to flee from the resistances of real world. He can experience the pleasant moment or search for self-identity. The existential philosophers like Søren Kierkegaard, Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus favor that human existence and his free will. They put emphasis on human desire for seeking self-respect and self-importance in society. They utter that human being requires all kinds of freedom to choose how he wants to live life, either in all comfort and lavish, or in distress and depravity. If he prefers to life in the world of memories and dream, he can opt it for the rest of life. He prefers world according to his choice whether it is suitable for him or not. He may choose the world of dreams or memories which are fascinating for many people. However, memory plays significant part in solving mysteries of life which were not yet solved.

Memory and reminiscence being part of human psychological process which is operated through mind, facilitate a man to experience all good and bad thing happened to him at any stage of life. Memory stores information pertinent to mostly significant incident happened to him or around him. The echo of the incidents strikes in the mind when he finds himself all alone anywhere. Memory assembles incidents and

reminiscence makes dynamic use of these incident to link the past with the present. Memory, as it stores information pertinent to human life, also attributes to identity of a person distinguished from others. A person can be identified when he has made remarkable impact on others with his deeds. However, memory and reminiscence usually assist to remember persons get-together, interaction, agreement, and disagreement. Therefore, identity of a person rests upon all his social activities and family's inheritance. John Banville has portrayed characters in his novels who are suffering to survive in the real world. They find their surrounding boring and unpleasant. They are eager to escape to a comfortable place from the current boredom and distress. They are also keen to find the persons who have immensely influenced him in childhood and even in adulthood. They can assure their social status by finding those people who were close to him. Banville's quest for a known place instigates him to look through the memories of the past days. Although he does not want his protagonists to live solely in the past, rather he insists to make analogy with the two arenas of life. He allows his protagonists to have experience of two different worlds. He then distinguishes good and bad among them. He says that we have our past which is our own; present is mere abstract; and future contains potentiality. He knows that memory of past can assist him to uncover many significant moments of life and provide clue to sketch social status for recognition. He reinforces the idea of moving back, which is, according to him, a better place for anyone. He also accentuates the places of childhood days over the places of city life. He believes that city life is just to pass the day in boredom and no one will be recognized when he is detached from social interaction living in city. He prefers to recall all kinds of memory which he finds only in his childhood days. He acclaims the experience of childhood retaining good or bad memories and having capacity to release stresses. He corroborates his idea in his novels in which the protagonists move from place to place, but at the end, they find their birth place more pleasing. According to Banville, incidents of childhood are more important. They create trauma, if incidents are sorts of mishap, and prolong to the rest of life. He discusses trauma as part of human life which keeps a man in touch with the incidents of life and remains for longer time as the form of memory.

The Book of Evidence provides the elements of memories, nostalgias, and recollections rather than a confession of the convict. It contains scenes collected together from Freddie's life. Freddie prefers to remember memories which directly

influenced him. He examines and experiences personal aspect which is associated with the reminiscence just as an existentialist who observes men and the characters of the novels. Freddie's memories are often sorrowful and distressing, even though he manages to express those sorrows in front of the court. He delineates his investigation of those occurrences which engendered grief and left him in such condition. He recounts the events that echo and seem to be taken from the repository or from the storage of retrieval data consisting of the realities of life which he never wants to miss anymore. It always seems, out of his present condition, his close observation of the real-life incidents of the past, is assimilated through his sensibilities. He recalls his grief caused by his mistakes or by others and immediately shifts to remembrance of those merry moments which caused by his noble deeds too. He feels remorse inside the prison. Furthermore, such situation will create more difficulties for him. Therefore, he prefers to move to those days which comfort him. Freddie recollects frantic memories of childhood along with the memories of adulthood which emerge after his long time visit to his house. The house where he ever lived was place of immense pleasure and penchant as well as full of childhood memories which he finds after his frequently visit to the place. The things are changed and not like that as they were in his childhood. He inclines to recall those past moments which were some values in his life. He visits his home town after a long time to see his mother and collect the residues of his childhood. He initially wants to move away from his parents to stand as an identical person, but being in an uneasy situation, he decides to unite them again. He is seemed to be obsessed to homecoming and wants to experience again those moments which were left behind. His mind is filled with nostalgia of his house. Even though he has already toured across the country being as a young man, but could not appease his appetites and console himself from the current oppressive situation and contemporary social fabrics which caused pain and distress. He observes the changing in surroundings, but he finds his mother in the same situation as she was some ten years back. Such adherences recur and evoke something in form of memories of childhood days when he used to live with his mother and father. He remembers his frequent visiting to the neighborhood and buying apples from the farmer's wife. He recalls that the morning imbues vigor of freshness with more vividness and force than that of the real things around him. He feels pleasure while recalling green fields around his house and the light above the field. He gets affected with the natural surroundings which entice him to think

furthermore those things which help in ameliorating from the distress. He finds ways to recall almost all trivial and important memories.

The Sea also portrays a middle-aged man who has lost mental balance due to many reasons and wants to move away from his surroundings in search of tranquility. It depicts sufferings as well as promotes awareness of complexity of real life which contains pains and distress. Max Morden who suffers from mental agonies and executes numerous plans to get away from them. He adherently decides to return his home, especially to the rented lodge named, the Cedar. The house carries nostalgia and experience of his early life which seems as an important event ever. He prefers to visit those places which have nostalgia of his childhood days. He wants to smell, touch and observe again the vanishing images which ever had drastic impact in his life. Banville puts his protagonist in the perplexity of life then finds ways to get him out of this. The bewilderment of life echo throughout the novel in terms of death of the dearest and the desertion of family member. It functions as a reminder and assists him to remember vividly all the events of his life. He observes the movement of the sea: rising and falling waves raise multiple notes in his heart. He grows up in the salty air of the sea from childhood to adulthood until he moves to the city. He wants to return again the coastal village where he used to come with his parents during holidays. He travels a seaside village where he spent summers in youth. He gets reminded everything related to his early life when he observes old building contemporary to his boyhood, and the house where he used to live. The sounds produced by the swelling of the sea, he hears, rejuvenate the incidents of life. He suspends himself while watching towards the sea and sitting on the dunes of the coast. He always refers the past moment as he hears the noises coming out of the sea. The past seems an integral body organ which strikes intermittently. He considers the past as his heartbeat. The novel opens with the protagonist looking at the sea from a house near the coast. He observes the swelling of the waves and turning pebbles at the sea which reminds him the scuffles of life. He has come back to this place in search of relief from the distress that he acknowledges after the death of his wife. He remembers his childhood days at this place when he was living here with his parents and with the Grace family that was dear to him after his parents. He spends most of his times with the Grace family especially with Chloe who was his first girlfriend ever.

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