

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. Benville 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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