
**The Influence of Fathers on Family and Society : A Study
in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Charles
Dickens's *Dombey and Son***

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Abstract :

Fatherhood is a theme that recurs in literature. It motivated many poets, novelists, and dramatists. Whereas some of poets wrote elegies for their fathers, others wrote novels and plays in which absent fathers were the cause of the difficulties confronted by the characters in these literary works. In addition, there are plays and novels where fathers are an inspiring force guiding their offspring. Significantly, fathers whether absent or present do influence their children. Their influence may be positive as well as negative affecting the family in particular and the society in general.

In some of the novels, the father figure represents a moral guide, such as Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960). In this novel, which won the Pulitzer Prize, a father of two children influences his son and daughter positively. Besides, he is an example to be followed by his children and his community. Conversely, in Charles Dickens's *Dombey and Son* (1848), a father of two children negatively influences his daughter and his family.

The aim of this study is to investigate the familial ties in two novels and explore the role of fathers in constructing healthy children which will lead to a healthy texture of the society in general.

Key words: (Father, positive, negative, economic, moral, influence, racism, business, trial, daughter)

Introduction: Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960)

Nelle Harper Lee was born in 1926 in Monroeville, Alabama. Her father Amasa Coleman Lee was a lawyer, member of the Alabama legislature, and partner in the local newspaper. During her childhood, Lee was a tomboy and she used to socialize largely with her brother Edwin and her friend, the author Truman Capote. (Mills,2010,p.1) In 1944, she graduated from Monroe High school

and enrolled in Huntington College Montgomery, Alabama to study law. She spent the summer of 1948 on student exchange at Oxford University, England. But she withdrew from law school on her return. (Ibid.,pp.1-2)

Lee moved to New York in 1948 to pursue a career as a writer. She worked as a bookstore clerk and airline ticket seller. At the same time, she did not quit writing. (Ibid., p.1) Lee left her job and worked on a novel after she received financial support from friends.(Bloom, 2010, p.10) Eventually, in 1957, she sent the manuscript of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which was titled *Atticus*, to a publisher named Jonathan Lippincott. Lee worked with an editor for two years to prepare the novel for publication.(Mills, 2010,p.1)

Harper Lee grew up in a place that is very much like the imaginary town of Maycomb in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She was born in 1926, which would make her the same age as the narrator in the mid 1930s when the events of the novel take place. In addition, Lee's father, Amasa C. Lee, was a small town lawyer who resembles the protagonist of the novel.(Milton, 1984,p.1) Since the author spent a period of time studying law, she was familiar with various cases, including a black man accused of raping a white woman. (Ibid., p.3)

Nelle Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960 and won the Pulitzer prize for fiction in 1961. (Mills, 2010,p.1) After one year of its publication, 500,000 copies of the novel were sold and translated into ten languages. The book is still public among students and general public in the United States of America. It won a number of awards, such as the Pulitzer prize, the Alabama Library Association Award, and the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. (Bloom, 2010, pp.10-11) The novel was banned in some parts of the States because of the word "nigger." Yet, it also gained praise for its sympathetic portrayal of black characters.(Bloom, 2010, p.15)

The novel traces the coming of age and growing awareness of young children who lived with their widowed father and a loving African American caregiver. Throughout the novel, the children encounter conflicts in school and their community which make them feel displaced. They watch their father's heroism when he defends a black man who has been wrongly accused of rape.(Johnson, 2018, p.1)

This novel is one of the best-selling and influential books in American literature as it made a difference in the lives of individuals and in the culture as a whole. It depicts the race relations in Alabama thoroughly and sensitively at a time when the battle for integration and equal rights was at its height at the States. Most of the actions of Civil Rights movement were centered in Alabama. The novel allows the reader to challenge the stereotypes of the southerner, the African-American, and the child. (Ibid.)

The novel was not written in 1930s Alabama, where the climate was unjust. It was written at the height of the Civil Rights Movements. Five years before the publication of the novel, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Moreover, Martin Luther King Jr. was already the leader of the movement. He led the Montgomery bus boycott and his house was bombed. *To Kill a Mockingbird* was written during this unstable time.(Bloom, 2010, p.15)

To Kill a Mockingbird is set in the early 1930s in the Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama during the Great Depression. (Ibid., p.12) The time during which the novel was written is 1930s when poverty and unemployment prevailed over the country. Franklin Roosevelt has just become president of the United States of America and has given some hope that the economic depression will be over. (Johnson, 1994 , p.5) During the 1950s, when Lee was writing her novel, the Great Depression and World War II had ended. Nevertheless, the Jim Crow laws were still in effect. It was a period when the Civil rights Movement and the third wave of the Ku Klux Klan were rising. (Mills, 2010, p.6)

Some places and characters in the novel resemble characters and places in Monroeville, Alabama, the author's hometown. Lee was born in 1926, which would make her exactly Scout's age at the beginning of the novel. The author's father, Amasa Lee, was a lawyer like the protagonist of the novel. Thus, it is impossible to separate the novel from the author and her life. (Bloom, 2010, p.12)

The events in the novel bear resemblance to the Scottsboro Trials in Alabama. On March 25, 1931, nine black men were arrested and accused of raping two white women on a train in Scottsboro. The Scottsboro trials have become notorious , especially in Civil Rights history. Rape in 1930s Alabama was a capital crime and all the

defendants faced the death sentence. All nine men were convicted. There are many parallels between the Scottsboro trial and the trial of Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. (Ibid., pp.13-14) Tom Robinson was accused of raping a white girl. Although Atticus Finch defended Tom, Tom was eventually convicted.

Real historical parallels are evident in the story setting of the historical 1930s. Racial injustice prevailed at that time in addition to Jim Crow Laws. Racial injustices were evident in such trials as that of the Scottsboro boys 1931 when nine black men were convicted of raping a white woman. They were sentenced to death like Lee's Tom Robinson. The economic deprivation during the depression is also mentioned. (Meyer, 2010, p.xviii)

The African American Civil Rights Movement aimed to end legalized segregation and restore the right to vote in Southern States. The movement is originated from the period before the Civil war, but it became stronger and more political after World War II.(Mills, 2010, p.6)

To Kill a Mockingbird: The Father as a Moral Guide

Atticus Finch, a man of fifty, is a lawyer, a widower, and a father of two children. He is the hero of the novel. Besides, he is the moral force in the novel.(Bloom, 2010, p.16) The character of Atticus drew the attention of many young Southerners to the racism in their region and inspired many others to follow the professions of law or public services.(Johnson, 2018,p.125)

Atticus has a loving and gentle personality. His presence is positive and inspiring in his children's lives. He loves his children and provides a stable and affectionate home for them. Furthermore, he possesses a very gentle personality that he is not willing to hurt anyone or any creature, such as animals. (Meyer, 2010,p.103) Atticus is not a hero in terms of physical strength. His children do not appreciate their father's heroism at first as he is an old man of fifty and he is not an athlete or a warrior. (Johnson, 2018,p.127)

Our father didn't do anything. He worked in an office, not a drugstore. He did not drive a dump-truck for the country, he was not the sheriff, he did not farm, work in a garage, or do anything that could possibly arouse the admiration He never went hunting , he did not play poker or fish or drink or smoke. He sat in the living room and read.(Lee, 2014, p.48.)

When he was younger, he was well known for being a crack shot and the most capable person in the community to face dangerous tasks. In the present, he is called upon to shoot a mad dog wandering down the street.(Johnson, 2018, p.127.) His children are extremely astonished:

Jem was paralyzed. I pinched him to get him moving. Then, Jem became vaguely articulate: “d’you see him, Scout? d’ you see him standing there? ... ‘n’all of a sudden he just relaxed all over, an’it looked like that gun was a part of him” (*TKM*, p. 53)

When Scout complains that Atticus could not do anything, Miss Maudie, the neighbor, disapproves of her complaint. She tells her that his nickname when he was a boy was “Ol’ One-shot”. Jem wonders why his father does not hunt anymore although he possesses a talent. Miss Maudie provides the answer by analyzing his heroic character.(Johnson, 2018, p.127)

If your father’s anything, he’s civilized at heart.... I think maybe he put his gun down when he realized that God had given him an unfair advantage over most living things.... People in their right mind never take pride in their talents. (*TKM*, p. 53)

Atticus stands firm when the town’s leaders surround his front door. He reminds them of a truth which they do not want to hear; the truth of Tom Robinson’s situation. He tells the sheriff and the town’s leaders that they know what the truth is. Then, the crowd begins murmuring and moves towards him. According to his daughter, he is the bravest man on earth.(Johnson, 2018, p.128) “It was times like these when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any wars, was the bravest man who ever lived.” (*TKM*, p. 54)

There is an allusion to the Bible when Atticus is compared to Jesus as he was about to be crucified. “Let this cup pass from you, eh?” (*TKM*, p. 48) The reference shows that Atticus is about to go through a difficult trial and that he was similar to a savior.(Johnson, 2018, p.127) He confronts the mob and puts himself in danger by going to the courthouse at night to guard Tom’s jail window although he was ordered to move away. The next day, as the trial was about to begin, the crowd was gathering and the town’s people were showing their objection to Atticus. They know he was appointed to defend Tom, yet they believed he should not take it seriously.(Johnson, 2018, p.128)

Atticus represents a moral guide to his children. His final summation to the jury explains that outsiders are human beings and sometimes they are victims. His children learn that some outsiders like Mayella Ewell, the white girl who claims to be raped, deserve their pity because she was brought up by a cruel father. (Ibid., p.2) These children learn to acknowledge a sympathetic bond between themselves and the people who are so different from them. Scout begins to identify with those people when she realizes that she herself is an outsider. She is a tomboy who has few female friends. She is subject to the brutal ridicule in the lady's society of her town because of being Atticus's daughter. (Ibid., p.3)

Atticus's character is discussed by some of the attendants during a break in the trial. One of the town's people named Dolphus Raymond and Scout exchange opinions concerning his personality. Scout quotes Atticus as he said that "cheatin' a colored man is ten times worse than cheatin' a white man... it's the worst thing you can do." (TKM, p. 107) Dolphus replies: "Miss Jean Louise, you don't know your pa's not a run-of-the-mill man, it'll take a few years for that to sink in-you haven't seen enough of the world yet." (TKM, p. 107)

He gains recognition from the black citizens when all the black people in the balcony rise to honor Atticus as he walks out of the courtroom. (Johnson, 2018,p.128) Reverend Skyes utters one of the strongest lines in the novel when he says : "Miss Jean Louise, stand up, your father's passin'" (TKM, p. 113) The verdict is announced and Tom is found guilty. Consequently, Atticus's life and family are still in serious danger. Besides, he is rejected by the white community. (Ibid)

Two prominent black men in American history referred to Atticus in their speeches. The first of whom is Martin Luther King Jr. when he wrote of Atticus's heroism in *Why We Can't Wait* and president Obama in his farewell speech to the United States of America on January 10,2017. (Johnson, 2018, p.129) President Obama mentions Atticus's perspective:

If our democracy is to work in this increasingly diverse nation, each one of us must try to heed the advice of one of the great characters in American Fiction, Atticus Finch, who said, 'you never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of

view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it'. (Cited in Johnson, 2018,p.12)

The Daughter as a Recipient of Fatherly Concern

Jean Louise Finch, the narrator of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is best known by her nickname "Scout." She possesses strength and goodness without affecting her understanding of reality. In spite of the death sentence of the innocent Tom Robinson, a victim of Maycomb County racism, Scout maintains her faith in the virtues of the people of her country. (Bloom, 2010, p.7)

Several critics have assessed Lee's use of a child narrator. The merits are the employment of childlike humor and naiveté, and the reproduction of adolescent language.(Meyer,2010,p.110) Scout is six years old when the novel begins and almost nine when it ends. Her mother died when she was two.(Bloom,2010,p.16) Scout's personality and character is one of the elements that gives the book a continuous importance. Although she is motherless, she has the best of fathers in Atticus and the best of brothers in Jem. Furthermore, she possesses a personality that charms readers.(Ibid., pp.8-9)

While leading a normal childhood, Scout and Jem learn that their father has become the defense attorney of a black man who was accused of raping a white girl. At the beginning, the children care only because their friends began to call their father bad names.(Milton,1984, p.8) Scout manages to stay away from fights, but on Christmas day, one of her cousins calls Atticus a "nigger-lover," and she responds by punching him.(Ibid. , p.8)

Scout's father represents a major influence in her life. Her flaws are quickly corrected by her father who is a moral guide for her and her brother.(Meyer, 2010,p.103) One day, Scout learns a racial slur at school and uses it at home. Her father reproaches her , to which she replies: " Everybody at school says." (*TKM*, p.40) Her father comments that now there will be everybody less one. Later she asks him about the racial slurs she hears at school. He explains the whole thing to her: he will defend a black man or a Negro. Consequently, she will hear talk from people in the town who believe he should not defend Tom.(Johnson, 2018, p.127)

Although Atticus considers Hitler a criminal, he instructs his daughter "It is not okay to hate anybody." (*TKM*, p.131) According to Atticus, Hitler is a psychopath dictator; a man who should be deposed.

Still, Atticus believes that hatred is harmful. It harms the beholder and the one who is being hated.(Meyer,2010,p.93)

He refuses violence against animals as well. Atticus tells his daughter that it is a sin to kill a mockingbird. “Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit’em, but remember it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird.” (*TKM*, p. 49) Scout is surprised and wonders why it is a sin. Miss Maudie tells her it is because a mockingbird never hurts anyone. This bird spends his life singing and giving pleasure. This perspective is very important because it provides the title of the book. The mockingbird is symbolic. It symbolizes some of the characters, such as Tom Robinson. He helps a poor girl. Later, she turns on him and her father causes his death. Tom’s death is like the senseless slaughter of songbirds by hunters and children. This aspect is suggested by the title. The mockingbird symbolizes the narrator herself. She sings a song as she is narrating the story.(Johnson, 2018,p.9)

When any society approves of violence, it will certainly payback the price. When the society does not teach children moral values, children will submit and feel that this society is indifferent to them.(Heath and Glenn, 2007, p.6) Other children in the novel suffer from indifference, for instance, Dill. His folks did not mistreat him as Scout thinks. They just neglected him. That is why he ran away from home. Scout was not convinced by that reason. She had people who loved her, like her father, who made her feel loved and needed. Thus, she couldn’t understand Dill’s point.(Ibid.)

Throughout the course of the book, children grow up by rising above the narrowness of the time and place in which they live. Scout says: “Equal rights for all, special privileges for none.” (*TKM*, p.130) This is correct theoretically, but in practice, equal justice was not available to Tom Robinson.(Johnson, 2018,p.1) Scout asks her father why is he doing what other people believe he should not. He answers: “If I didn’t I couldn’t hold up my head in town... I couldn’t even tell you and Jem not to do something again. (*TKM*, p. 41) According to Atticus, this is the right thing to do.

Throughout the course of the novel, Scout passed from innocence and naivety to knowledge and awareness. She starts to realize their connection to the community in which they live. The novel shows the character’s insight and courage to value human

differences of people whom others believe they are different.(Johnson, 2018 , p.2) The emphasis is on people of a different race from that of the Finch children. But the children learn that it takes a strong mind and a big heart to embrace other's differences. It also takes enormous courage to defend another human being who is different from ourselves against the community's prejudice and injustice.(Ibid., p.2.)

Charles Dickens's *Dombey and Son* (1848): Family and Children in Terms of Business

Dickens's novels are characterized by a yearning toward fathers and fatherhood. This yearning is exemplified in his career from the beginning to the end. Through the course of his novels , Dickens shows a complex concept of fatherhood by using major and minor characters. Such portrayal is shaped by his experience as a father, as a son, and as an author. Absent fathers cause much of the hardship of the characters in some of Dickens's novels, such as *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Barnaby Rudge*, *Bleak House*, and *Great Expectations*. In other novels, biological fathers are the center of the plot, such as : *Dombey and Son* and *Little Dorrit*.(Mcknight, 2011, p. 51)

Dombey and Son is one of Dickens's novels that tackles fatherhood in its dark sense. Dickens began writing *Dombey and Son* when he had been married ten years which is the same period of time the hero of the novel has been married when his son is born.(Zwinger, 1991 , 38) The image of Dombey is similar to most stereotypes after the Industrial Revolution. He is the best representative of the cold, distant, repressive Victorian stereotype.(Mcknight, 2011, p.53) After the Industrial Revolution, men's work was away from home. It forced them to be more distant literally and figuratively.(Ibid., p.52)

The name of the family firm is "Dombey and Son" which is the most important idea in Dombey's life. It is extremely important as if the whole world revolves around it:

The earth was made for Dombey and Son to trade in, and the sun and moon were made to give them light. Rivers and seas were formed to float their ships; rainbows gave them promise of fair weather; winds blew for or against their enterprises; stars and planets circled in their orbits, to preserve inviolate a system of which they were the center.(Dickens,1873, p.10)

Dombey is a powerful father and a successful business man. He is a selfish father who is very cruel to his daughter. He has an overbearing attitude to his family members as well as a chilling love for his son. He leads his private life in a businesslike manner.(Sadrin,1994, p. 44) Dombey dreams of continuity and reproduction: “He had risen, as his father had before him, in the course of life and death, from Son to Dombey.” (*DS*, p.11) Dombey has been son and son will be Dombey.(*Ibid.*, p.45) Dombey is confused between family and business relationships. The son he dreamt of is viewed as a trade mark.

But he loved his son with all the love he had. If there is a warm place in his frosty heart, his son occupied it; if its very hard surface could receive the impression of any image, the image of that son was there; though not so much as an infant, or as a boy, but as a grown man—the ‘son’ of the Firm.(*DS*, p.139)

Dombey’s family is composed of a son and a daughter. His daughter , Florence, is a beautiful and sweet girl. She is submissive, self-reliant, patient, persistent, and intelligent. She is so typical of Dickens’s heroine.(Zwinger, 1991,p.30) she encounters ordeals through her journey from a child to a woman in a confined environment. Dickens’s heroines go through difficulties. In this novel, the heroine’s father is her tormentor.(*Ibid.*, p.31) He is so cruel that the “stiff and stark fire irons appeared to claim a nearer relationship than anything else there to Mr. Dombey.” (*DS*, p.85) He refuses to acknowledge his daughter’s care and love which causes the domestic turbulence in his household.(*Ibid.*, p.30)

Florence does not represent any materialistic value to her father: “But what was a girl to Dombey and Son! In the capital of the House’s name and dignity, such a child was merely a piece of base coin that couldn’t be invested—a bad boy—nothing more.” (*DS*, p.12) Dombey does not find anything promising in his daughter. He believes that. He thinks that she is not a source of social alliance because her marriage will threaten his necessary economic independence.” (Schor, 2004, p.52)

The way he dealt with his wife was purely economic. She was no more than one of his possessions:

He was not a man of whom it could properly be said that he was ever startled or shocked ; but he certainly had a sense within him

that if his wife should sicken and decay, he would be very sorry, and that he would find a something gone from among his plate and furniture, and other household possessions, which was well worth the having, and could not be lost without sincere regret. Though it would be a cool, business-like, gentlemanly, self-possessed regret, no doubt. (*DS*, p.15)

After his wife gave birth to his first son and heir, she died. When Florence's mother was about to die, she reached out to Florence, and her alone, for a last dying embrace. This action of the mother leads Dombey to treat his daughter as a threatening scapegoat; a role she plays throughout the course of the novel. (Klaver, 2003, p.89) He watches the dying Fanny Dombey embrace the six-year-old Florence which is an act of neglect as he was far away from his wife. He feels alienated and isolated. (Zwinger, 1991, p.32) He was estranged and dislocated. His wife was concerned with her daughter leaving him away.

According to Mr. Dombey, Florence is an obstacle between him and his son. He identifies her as the main opponent to him because she occupies the primary role in Paul's world. (Klaver, 2003, p.92) Dombey wants to capture his son's attention with no rivals: "He will make what powerful friends he pleases in after-life ... Until then, I am enough for him, perhaps, and all in all." (*DS*, p.59) He rejects nurses although the nurse insures the continuation of his boy and firm. Ultimately, he instructs a nurse not to form any humane ties that are not included in their contract. (Zwinger, 1991, p.32)

In a motherless household, the place of the daughter would be in a maternal position. Yet, Dombey's jealousy extends to whoever might prove important to his son, including his daughter. Florence's position transforms from being an irrelevant daughter to a rival. She is now the little mother in the house. Dombey feels left out again. Young Paul is sent to a boarding school, in order to weaken his affection to his sister. The boy's farewell exposes his bond with his sister: (Ibid., p.33) "It was not addressed to [Dombey]. No, no. To Florence—all to Florence" (*DS*, p.221) She buys all the books of her brother's school to learn his homework before he does. She negotiates the streets of London to return to him. (Schor, 2004, p.55)

Early in the novel, little Paul Dombey poses a question: “What is Money?” (*DS*, p.140) To Mr. Dombey’s surprise, this question interrupts his thoughts about the sophisticated financial plans meant for his son who has inherited his name, and who will hopefully inherit his wealth, and his social identity. (Klaver, 2003,p.78) Mr. Dombey is positioned in a difficult situation after that question:

He would have liked to give him some explanation involving the terms circulating medium, currency, depreciation of currency, paper bullion, rates of exchange, value of precious metals in the market, and so forth; but looking down at the little chair, and seeing what a long way down it was, he answered: “ Gold, and silver, and copper. Guineas, shillings, half-pence. You know what they are? (*DS*, p.140)

Little Paul is not interested in the material from which money is made; rather, he wants to know the advantage of money:“what can it do?” (*DS*, p.141)Mr. Dombey’s next answer exemplifies his views in life as he believes that money can make people “honored, feared, respected, courted, and admired.” Besides, he asserts that money make man “powerful and glorious in the eyes of all men.” (*DS*, p.141) Dombey extends his definition to include all the elements of Victorian capitalist society.(Klaver,2003,p.78)Paul comments innocently: “Why didn’t money save me my mama? (*DS*, p.141)Paul provides a new set of terms to define money that is totally different from his father’s definition.(Ibid.)

Paul questions the benefit of money in terms of family. Paul’s perspective is somehow similar to Dickens’s perspective in the novel as a whole. Dickens portrays an image of an unqualified system of economic and monetary value and places this economic system in a different location where moral values prevail.(Ibid., p.79)

Dombey loses his wealth after one of his employees steals his money and elopes with his wife.(Zwinger, 1991 ,p.44) After the elopement of Edith, his wife with Carker, Dombey is highly enraged. He extends his fury to beat Florence. Moreover, he blames her for what has happened.(Ibid., p.36)

The Daughter as an Agent of Familial Rehabilitation

The novel focuses on the lack of communication between father and daughter, but it does not imply that Florence does not respect her father. The novel tackles the absence of family bond on the father’s

part rather than of the daughter's.(Ibid,p.44.) Dombey's hatred toward his daughter develops to hostility, which leads to violence of a forceful blow. And by forcing Florence to leave the house , he destroys the image of home within his large house.(Klaver, 2003,p.93)

The loss of Dombey's economic power precedes the reconciliation with Florence. Previously, the relation between them begins with Dombey's rising uneasiness which escalates into fear and arrives at hostility. Dombey recognizes himself as a business man. He is an intelligent merchant to know that his daughter is dealing in an altogether different currency. His language includes only pounds and pence.(Zwinger, 1991 , p.44)

The novel suggests that if Dombey had responded to Florence's genuine love, the tragic end of his second marriage and the collapse of his business would have been avoided.(Ibid., p.40) When he is finally alone in his empty and abandoned house, he contemplates suicide. He also recalls his past and thinks about his daughter. Dombey asks for forgiveness and reconciles with his daughter after the fall of his house, his son's death, and the great auction that follows.(Schor,2004, p.63)

Florence is the reason of her father's rebirth at the end of the novel. She is the cause of his repentance and penance. She leaves the house in disgrace and anger, but she returns to it as an angel. She undergoes a transformation from a "base coin" to a loving daughter.(Ibid., p.51)

Confession requires two sides: the superior to whom the confession is made, and the one who asks for forgiveness. Florence positions her father as the superior to whom the confession is made. Dombey's repentance is not as explicit as hers. It is manifested in the form of regret.(Zwinger,1991, p.43)

Florence leaves the house where she was cruelly treated and seeks refuge at one of their acquaintance. Soon after she hears the bad news about Walter's drowning. Yet, he comes back and they get married and have a new born boy. Only then, she returns home to offer this new Paul as if she is trying to restore the lost one.(Sadrin, 1994, p.50)

Florence leaves her father's house as a despised daughter. She returns home after one year as Walter Gay's wife and the mother of Paul Dombey, Jr.'s namesake. She is now received as someone else's

wife and the mother of Dombey's grandson. Dombey's wealth, power, and his physical strength disappeared, but he restored his daughter. After the long estrangement between Dombey and Florence, she offers her love and devotion, and he gladly accepts it. The long denial of the daughter stands in the figure of Florence. Ultimately, She is gladly received by her father.(Zwinger,1991, p.44)

Earlier in the novel, Dombey did not cherish his daughter. Nevertheless, his daughter is the one who will provide him with the son he longed for. Besides, his daughter will ensure the continuity of Dombey's name.

Conclusion

Fatherhood has been tackled by male and female novelists in various periods of time. Nevertheless, the portrayal of fathers is entirely different from one author to another. Some of whom depict fathers positively which show their belief in the moral force which fathers represent. Other novelists portray fathers negatively in order to reflect the social, psychological , and moral distortion of human nature.

In the two novels tackled in this study, fathers stand in contrast to each other. Although both of whom have two children, their influence on their children is completely different. Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* is fully devoted to document the fatherly role in home and society. Atticus Finch is an honest man who influences his society and his children. He is present to instruct his children and correct their mistakes. Besides, he never abandons his role in defending a man who is accused wrongly. The portrayal of this character shows the optimism about the possibilities of goodness in human beings and society in general.

Conversely, in Dickens's *Dombey and Son*, the father is not a moral force that influences his children. Rather, he treats his family in a businesslike manner. Everything in Dombey's life is estimated in terms of money, including his daughter. His son is a trademark that will ensure the continuity of his firm. But it is his daughter who represents a moral force in the novel as she helps him repent after he loses his son, wealth, and power. These characters show the various sides of the human nature. Moreover, such characters encourage readers to see the goodness of human beings as well as compassion

and forgiveness in spite of all the wrongs committed by those characters and their society.

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تأثير الآباء على العائلة و المجتمع: دراسة في رواية (أن تقتل طائراً محاكياً) لهاربر لي
و رواية (دومبي و ابنه) لتشارلز ديكنز

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المستخلص

يعد موضوع الأبوة من الموضوعات التي تتكرر في الأدب إذ حفز الكثير من الشعراء و الروائيين و الكتاب المسرحيين الى الكتابة عن هذا الموضوع ففي الحين الذي كتب فيه بعض الشعراء مراثٍ عن آباءهم الغائبين، كتب البعض الآخر روايات و مسرحيات كان فيها الأب الغائب سببا في الصعوبات التي واجهها الشخصيات في هذه الأعمال، بالإضافة ثمة أعمال أدبية لروائيين و مسرحيات يلعب فيها الآباء دور قوة ملهمة توجه أولادهم. يؤثر الآباء على أولادهم سواء كانوا حاضرين أم غائبين و قد يكون تأثيرهم ايجابياً أو سلبياً على العائلة بشكل خاص و المجتمع بشكل عام.

في بعض الأعمال الروائية ، تمثل صورة الأب مرشداً أخلاقياً مثل رواية (أن تقتل طائراً محاكياً) لهاربر لي ، ففي هذه الرواية التي فازت بجائزة البوليتزر يؤثر الأب على طفليه و المجتمع تأثيراً ايجابياً كما يمثل هذا الأب مثلاً أعلى لطفليه و مجتمعه. على العكس من ذلك في رواية (دومبي و ابنه) لتشارلز ديكنز إذ يؤثر الأب تأثيراً سلبياً على ابنته و عائلته.

تهدف هذه الدراسة الى تسليط الضوء على الروابط العائلية في روايتين و تبحث الدراسة أيضاً دور الآباء في تشكيل أطفال أصحاء مما يؤدي إلى بنية صحيحة للمجتمع بشكل عام.
الكلمات المفتاحية : (أب، ايجابي، سلبي، اقتصادي، اقتصادي، أخلاقي، تأثير، عنصرية، تجارة، محكمة، ابنة)