

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI**

**NPTEL**

**NPTEL ONLINE CERTIFICATION COURSE**

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**Gender and Literature**

**By**

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Hello and welcome to lecture and gender literature and of course of your doings and today we will talk about a short story called fly by Katherine Mansfield so we had covered already as you know you know some of the texts that we supposed to do it in this particular course along with it is theoretical occultist and the theoretical component which is also exactly and as a part of this particular course you get finished with heart of darkness by Joseph Conrad a prior to which they finished a shooting in elephants by George Orwell and before that of course.

The moon ship French are the chess players are certain siclari so in this particular short story we are going to look at primo right up so this is rented suit Oxford because looks at aspects such as and the female conditioning masculinity crisis in the entire location of gender the entire reconfiguration of gender which took place after a particular political England and the political even in the short story is a First World War so essentially it is a war story it is one of the finest short stories with me out of the first world war experience meant.

I experienced the first world war the trauma of the world the experience of loss experience or alienation experience of despair dissolution disappointment so all these things come together in a very interesting in a way in this particular of theory and what it does and why it increased past for those opposed to looking at gender in the future what it does very skillfully it is really well-written short story it is magnificent craft in there as you can see as you move on what this chapter does is a completeness of inter changes the coordinates of masculinity femininity the location of agency in masculinity vocational agency in femininity is completely change it is very radical revision through a very painful process of course.

Which took place which takes place in this particular short story and in many sense this short three is a very faithful and authentic and artistic reflection of the condition that was happening that was prevalent after the first world war the condition of lost the condition of any nation the condition of reconfiguration which they face after the first world war now before I live into the short story I will do something similar to what I did read how darkness I will give you 98 thousand of the cultural background of this particular Greek text a background.

Which produced this text so what were the culture the conditions what were the political conditions what were the economy conditions at that point of time all traditional short story was produced now the moment I say it is the first world war short story you know the automatic assumption that everyone has and quite rightly so that it is a short story about the loss is about human loss it is about the loss of life is for the loss of memory it is about a lot of fond memories is about a loss of a fulfilling enriching life and that that is something.

The short story deals with it represented in a very interesting and complex kind of a waste now when we talk about loss in first who involved the real condition of losses were civil war was quite as appalling and the number of people who died in the First World War the number of people of paralyzed in a spiritual world is appalling and it was the first real rock in human history which was fought in a global scale I mean almost no part of the world was unaffected by the first.

Who were wrong as you know there were people dying in almost every part of the planet we were dying the people news in the relatives would be losing a love done in almost every part of the planet and that something which happens a lot extensively in almost the entirety of the world war fiction that we have including novels short stories poems and as you know that's a really interesting what point awaiting by the world poets people actually went and fought in the First World War came back and order politically bored experience and for the drama of experience about the feeling of alienation or the feeling of loss etc that is the different dawn brother to job that people deal with when they want to read relationship between literature and drama an entire idea of what poetry people like subzone great already these are primary world poets who wrote at the point in English about experiences in the trenches of the First World War now I mean obviously what the world what does did historically it created a massive scale accordingly where thousands of people died in this single day so the very opening of the world.

The very culture there was so you know thousands of people dying so in a big amount of cosmology the monster him a lot the degree of human loss was unprecedented since what I mean want to say this was the first work in human history which is truly fought on a global scale so it was industry war fare it was a machine warfare two people in two hundred hand combat the entire grammar of fighting change the First World War it was more machining it was more industrial the people getting killed in a great distances religious registration someone died expect a micro ways.

So you know all these different configurations of the battling of laws of warfare violence these generated together we generated a sense of emotional response to the First World War and that emotional response to a British term was a repression so there is a lot of repression after the first world war people who came back from the wrong people who fought in the war and also people lost their in a loved one in the world there were essentially a group of repressed people they could not really describe they could not really talk about what happens because it was something in Chapter was happening for the first time.

So it was completely a changed mood of war fare as you mention it is remote away from the hand-to-hand combat model of warfare into a more industrial and demo machine and the more automatic modular warfare and more automated kind of violence where by people were able to kill other people and by beings and our great distance away and it was also derivative the anonymity of the enemy was also a very important factor you can see the enemy was it could not recognize it could not know you could not be in person over your enemy wars so you know killing someone that you do not know killing someone you do not see the content so all these experiences which were so asked largely unprecedented before the First World War so owners together generated a very interesting a very complex experience eliminations repression and of coursed expression fist world war and the most important thing is people are finding very difficult to come to terms with a lot people find it very difficult to come to terms to the violence better experience in the trenches privacy came back after the first world war they were almost you know the fact they found it almost impossible to talk about experiences.

In first world war trenches because again this was something which did not happen before right it is not a kind of bathroom become one kind of warfare that they were used to as soldiers so they

came back after the first world war they were unable to technical that they were unable to express the experiences and very fine text which is entirely on this entirely book with inability to talk about experience of the First World War after soldier comes back to the civilian space is Virginia Woolf Smith is gallery.

Which is obviously a very fine normal refined modernist novel but it has one soldier concept Emmett Smith who comes back in the trenches having for the bathroom for England and then he comes back to London and we cannot get anyone what is experiencing he comes in and one the true extent of his loss the strength of experiences because in an in the repressed person okay so in all this very interesting and complex medical symptoms appeared after the first world war which again in industry of medicine were unprecedented and one of which was a very popular and somewhat something which caught on and the culture.

And popular collective imagination was something called shellshock in the shell shock in the First World War was something which happened to pull this and it came back from the trenches and again it was a very psychological kind of a situation and again like in violence this few in medical history had no precedent and so there is no instance of show shot before the First World War the people did not know and those people did get traumatized after coming up in a lob.

But not to this scale so this was a collective kind of experience a lot people just came back after the first world war completely shell-shocked and I do not shows shortages Quite button called Charles masers it was again something which had not happened before in medical history people could not quite deal with it the doctors were trying to treat the patients from soldiers do not know how to greet your church shop so this was a time after the First World War where something called psychoanalysis those of us who read literature would know what site analysis is it suddenly became very popular suddenly became very talked about and some of those Sigmund Freud again you know those process early literature and psychology are very quantitative name sudden afraid so he was only found in figures of psychoanalysis so he became he was in London upon a time he became extremely talked about .

It became extremely significant after the first world war because he offered an imperative he offered a way of looking at the human mind which was sort of unprecedented before and that's the hell which to a great extent and talking about trauma and dealing with loss and dealing with emotions etc okay now this was the cultural medical psychological political situation the entirety

of Europe was cracking up and this was the beginning one might say the beginning of the end of European imperialism the first world war because this would all be followed by the Second World War and by the time the Second World War ended there almost all the empires of Europe were cracking up were breaking down and you know.

So we moved on from a colonial entitled Europe to a post-colonial Europe there was no longer with Europe a major power no longer with Europe a major player and we build politics so after Second World War as you know the global players and world politics became the USA and the uses up and something we'll talk about more extensively when we look at the next text and of course which is go back in angle but for the moment is important to term that refers to a lot with the beginning of the end of European civilization.

To a great extent about by civilization I mean the Constructors often superiority the constructive European masculinity they construct a fear of an idea of femininity and masculinity etc and cause attach to all this is the entire idea of imperialism so the First World War was the first real hit against imperialism it is a completely crippled year of the great extent the degree of violence with no cure of faith experience in virtual world whose massive and ritual again it reveals a European person mystery Orchestra be constructed quality of European civilization that is not a given they get something which is analysis anonymously and globally variable it is something which can be broken down very easily it is something which can be get violence very easily because the first law was written almost entirely broadly of environment through the white man's violence so this exchange of violence or just mentioned where you know which was unprecedented in human history was very telling reminder for the returning reflection or be constructed quality the fragility of the European civilization the fragility of the European sense of self the fragility of the or concerns of and human that humanity is settled so along with the economic obviously.

If you look at the economy in the Fertile Rob port spiritual economy were lots of compute in Europe began to become bankrupt and by the family compass Second World War bankruptcy or almost become European phenomenon as a continental phenomenon to a great extent so you know they cannot afford the war anymore so it becomes economically psychologically medically and socially culturally politically so every time to return the First World War was a massive

attack a massive hit against Europe and constant of the third theory of ontology of civilization consider logy.

So that was that may be seen the world may be seen as a paradigm shift in an understanding of the human sellers understanding of the human masculinity femininity the very idea of gender the very ideal itself the very idea of being on the being so began to shift after the first world war because the extent of violence which happened in the First World War okay so this is a condition which produced enormous shockwave the fly and of course the other thing we need to be aware of very rigorously is that this is also the top three is registering a great complex critique of the entire Mathews principle which created a law in the critique of math unity is a critique of Mathews motive of volume expansion intelligence etcetera.

So we talk about this great detail to look at how the document we saw how the entire idea of intelligence are added Empire was an expansion is idea we wanted to expand they want to be centralized they wanted it was considered driven by very much students profit motives which was gearing the man field in the entire desire to conquer to conquest to Barkley at take a light alliance and take over and exploit other people in the part of the world since in the idea of expanding of conquering of centralizing was even a student's ideas.

And you know the first world war can be seen as an extreme extension of this masculinity desire of innovation this entire this extreme expansion or extension of the earnest desire for conquering for violence for tent realization etc okay so in that sense the first world war can be seen as monstrous reflection of imperialisms the reigning monstrous reflection to the European man of what the Empire really is so it is not something which is a grand soon as a mission or ultimate it is not something which is a rescue mission government is actually a monstrous mission of violent exploitation human cultural Tiananmen loss so the first world war in racism sense can be seen as at monstrous reflection of Europe and greed of European violence of Europe and an marchland.

So always went against the entire principle of the superiority to supposed principle or the superiority of Europe the superiority of the European civilization in a way so in that sense the First World War was not just apolitical even but also an ontological England a philosophical even and the distant logical even and why is this term illogical because it brought about a change not just a level of politics multiple level of violence but also the level of knowledge your idea or

system a sense of self change your idea of your own entire self change of the First World War as a European man and it was in change after the First World War.

So in that sense is a very personal philosophical psychological ontological even is an even the paradigm shift to a great example okay so this is the kind of condition which created the fly by Katherine Mansfield now Katherine Mansfield just to give you a little biographical detail about Katherine Mansfield was a New Zealand-born writer she was born in Christchurch and she's one of the finest writers of the short story and she is now considered to be one of the greatest modernist writers of the times along with James Joyce Virginia Woolf TS Eliot .

She is not ranked with those people despite being outside of so anybody would outside that I mean so she is not someone who is working who was born in the heartland of Europe she is not someone who was born in London no Vienna or Paris or Rome but she is someone who came from New Zealand which again may be regarded as a colony of the Empire or the British colony at the time of course you were the right person so she very much was the privileged person in the colony but even so her entire negotiation were the European modernity the European modernism did the art movement of modernity was quite complex so she was never really of comfortable inside of in this entire modernist movement and of course she was a very fierce critique of patriarchy should very clear critique of hetero normatively so she practically religion to a great extent in her life actually in a very adventurous light shed and on numerous adventures numerous affairs and numerous experiences which went against in the patriarchal principle of the preservation conservation and protection .

Her female body between yourself so she went against it entirely true her line and the writing to is reflective of this an establishment stance and form takes in our own life so the writing research is quite progressive the writing itself is quite active selfishly the writing itself is quite radical and man ascends so the craft that she uses in her short fiction in a short story is a craft which is entirely geared to a subversion and the process is entirely dear to using questioning patriarchy questioning the establishment question anti patriarchal principles of preservation election reservation concept that you right so again this brings us this can be connected very weak .

To what we said the phallic eccentric nature of classic realism the side of the sentence nature which is attacked in how to document the phallic eccentric obviously the combination of phallic sampling and logo sampling so to Patriotic a logic where it was member returns valuable centric so

the die of valid authenticity of human existence the entire Sally defend the city of European white mount existence was questioned was radically question and be constructed and destroyed in away in the First World War and what mankind does amended particular theory .

And I almost and I over of a world it IS actually questioned the plan of a central principle she questions the Patriot unsupported questions is entire idea of not community normative masculinity nor matter femininity the sanjaya blonde binary between no magic math unity in no matter community that constantly question and Manson's lips turn and tools work fiction whether it is a short story or the letters thatched wrote which again of quite extreme.

If you read those in the context of today now to what happens in the flight so why apply an important short story in one literature and you know gender and literature etc now to give you a very quick summary in the short story which is something I'll do in the first lecture and I move on to more specific textual details in a second lecture thinly is a short story about the entire patriarchal project of graduation okay Said again the fly in the short story of the entire patriarchal project of preservation now what it does want to preserve is the idea of superiority the idea of privilege the idea of you know sometimes the primacy in the white man and wants to protect that and want to perpetuate.

An idea despite the loss that it had faith in the first world war and the short stories is a satire against project of preservation the short story is a critique of the cultural preservation the South Korea is not attacked again to attempt at preservation ok very feminist critiques of carding feminist critique is called incoming attacks and attacks against the patriarchal project of preservation projects and perpetuation okay so there are four beads that we need to be aware of in the entire discourse production protection preservation and perpetuation the fourteenth production we produce to the kind of Mac community introduce a certain kind of commodity reproduce a certain kind of value system.

So that the production phase that one second obviously you preserve it so you promote it we preserve it and you sort of protected against any kind of attacked that threat protection so production promotion protection articles then in a perpetuation of preservation like you want to perpetuate it or preserve it forever right the production promotion protection and third situation the 14th in the patriarchal principle of you know we will talk about commodity while they are talking about the value system whether you talk about Empire whether you are talking about the



entire discourse of Mythology and felinity the four PS are very important I give you all these little abbreviations.

Which helpful conceptually ugly so for examples just to brush up our memory things I did divide the three Emmys which were historically significant in any history of imperialism so in other first end of school is called emergent that the merchant who came the most entire presence which came at the beginning of imperialism and that was followed by the military presence and which was followed subsequently and eventually.

But a missionary presence which was out there to convert people and make them into consent for subjects so you know the military was forty by force was appealing to you by force but the mission will appeal to you to present when you become a happy consumer of privilege a happy consumer of the white man superiority so again that will connect us to what we saw in shooting in an extent where the Burmese people are very complicated zooming the white man stood looking extended a wonder white man to perpetrate.

The privilege right again another perpetration thing becomes important and shooting and elephant so the four PS away are important production, promotion, protection ,perpetration right these are the four PS that we deal with in this particular shop theory and what the structure is does it is completely breaks these four pieces completely goes against attack sit critiques the entire politics of production the entire politics of graduation the entire politics of promotion.

And entire politics of protection right it shows that very clearly and very brutally actually the entire map unit idea of production of a sudden find an opportunity production a kind of commodity production of a certain kind of value system is basically a construct and it is a very evil construct that is a short stories very evil construct it is not something that we should not be celebrating it is not something.

That we should not be in a glorifying to a romantic rhetoric or otherwise okay so this is a short story which can be read to should do it I think as a very strong feminist attire against the entire of value eccentric logical deductions okay so this is the satire race cutting satire of this entire patriarchy the project of patriarchy of phallic asceticism which is depicted in the short story as the Giles as weak at the Nile sinister at the same time it is something which is broken down in the end and mercilessly broken down is brutally broken down and it reveals to be a very fragile

construct so masculinity in the short story the European values this community are three degrees are far from Universal given categories.

These are reviews to be constructed categories very fragile constructs which can be broken down by any human risk of dropping down that any act of remembrance which can be broken-down there any actor forgetting so far means the superior fit superior logy the supposed superiority of these categories what is revealed in the short story the fragility the movement in short story is from superiority to fragility right superiority of the European man superiority the European idea of life superiority of an idea of memory because the fragility of the same thing so it reveals to give refresh eyeing thing revealed to be a very weak thing at least denial in a very weak thing of representing it does something which is which can sustain itself it's broken-down the end and remove it will break in the end so this is a conceptual framework of the short story and I wanted to give you the cultural framework because that's your framework before I moved on to you at a real short period and now I was talking to a short story.

And I was talking about how it is important and why we should study it in course on gender and literature this short story the fly which is when the finance things that man should ever wrote it's about a man called the boss okay we never get to know the name of the boss we never get to know his real name where they can amaze that is not revealed to us it just called the boss in the short story and obvious obviously as people who interpret text people who do close reading from the pretext we should be aware of the fact that moment someone is called a boss in the short story or inaugural and it rejects.

The automatic assumption that he is supposedly in a position of authority he is supposedly in a position of power and a position of privilege that's why it is called a boss so in the Boston short story he's charged off when the shots when he begins he starts off in apposition of privilege he starts clapping position of power okay and that's very clearly given to us it is very clearly depicted to unrepresented to us are affected to us anthem narrator so he is someone who enjoys because the G someone who is in a position of privilege is occupying the privileged position at the beginning of this short story so he is called a buy now in complete contrast to the boss we have another man called Mr. woody field two three the short story.

So I will send you an online link I mentioned an online link and if you just Google up the flyby Katherine Mansfield you should be able to get a very good online edition of a short story which

you can read and you should great service particular tools now in complete contrast to the boss we have the figure of Mr. woody field now the wooded field appears in the short story is someone who's in Iowa someone who is basically very weak at losing his memory losing this organic function it is not very strong nor very stout so he is a picture in a way of a decadent map community he was a picture in a way of a very scenario wasted kind of a map community he someone is on his way out as we can see and I need someone who is dying and he did not have those good years ahead of him biologically metabolically he does right outfit sort of a washout in a way I am very old however incidentally he is younger than me boss he is five years younger than the boss.

So the obvious assumption the obvious picture will get added boss that despised age he older than woody field so beautifully very weakened to night under the boss despite of age if someone is very strong someone is raised out someone is really someone is student at the healthy or power someone is still in control of everything in life so the short reopen captain man who is the fly the short story opens with a picture of rockets office we the 13 is a bottom operated entire sourcing take place takes place inside the office space of the boss and the picture with the delegate of the office is a picture of prosperity.

A picture of progress a picture of an abundant a picture of a you know productive smash community right so we get an optic base which is very well designed include electric heating is got lots of lovely gadgets because local of lovely furniture it is God it is nearly done up and that is probably we get to know in the short story there it is been done up recently so he is good he is had makeover and in his office so we be obviously the assumption as the picture that we get or immediately is that this is a person.

Who wants to be in controls a person who doing new things all the time despite his age is someone who is trying to be in power someone who is in power someone is not privileged and it operates is a reflection of his privilege so we get a picture of electric heating we are going to picture of new furniture we get a picture of a new jet glue the picture of you know new kind of gadgets around them so you know in a racist way very straightforward way the shop story gives see a picture of abundance success manly success patriarchal success possibility in a privileged power position Authority etc.

This is a point in which the short story begins it open to that kind of a point so the picture we have with the boss reserved a CEO typically thoughtful man someone why is a social success someone who is in a strong man someone who is in control of his life similar to North Korea someone is in control office in our entire standing social professional and understanding and life in general someone who's really doing well in life a man a big strong successful man that is the picture we get to the door to the beginning of the short story .

Now let us give you a little biographical detail and this is reporting in reading the fly now Mansfield then there is very good reason to believe that we picture they brought in Kathy nothing short story it is basically a picture of Mantel's own father so he was someone to reach anybody 3 of 9 3 and management's relationship with his father is quite complex and he comes across and mantel's autobiographies and letters by the read.

The letter story at someone's authoritative someone who enjoys privileged from one's very patriarchal a privileged someone's very start of the century etc so he's someone who may have been a model for Mansfield when once you cut right the figure of the boss and thinly right so the figure the bottom apply especially way in the when the story opens is that of something very similar to mention own father a patriarchal patriarch someone who the position of prisoners someone is a position of power someone enjoys authority someone enjoys story, it could be contrasted that we have, would if we have mentioned who said that chatting with the boss who is shivering who does not know what to say who basically and the story makes it very clear at the rate beginning the he is basically on his way out.

But then this is despite the fact that he is younger than a boss and it is interesting that he is really in terms of ages younger than a boss but that does not make him more powerful that would make him more strong, so he is someone who is basically very weakened denial and that is something which is so he makes quite clear at the beginning of the shot and beginning of the narrative. Now the story opens of the mention with the boss situated very, very softly very, very robustly instead of office space which is surrounded by new gadgets, new heating, new furniture etcetera and he is very in a very direct exclusive way he shows off his success would he is field.

So he is sitting there really the financial times newspaper which he flipped open with a paper knife the description is very, very quick so he is got a lot of you know his immortal movement his muscular movement very strong, very script and he was predicting control of his nerves and

having control of the situation and he start to show off his office to would he field and that gives him in a very interesting sense or scene of narcissistic pleasure a sense of superiority he feels better the bottom does he feel better world life when he is showing off his entire architecture of his office to Winfield.

Who sits there in a muffler and the newer details ask he is a fail all figure in a muffler, so he is almost like a mummy right, it not someone, he is some mummified it is not someone is a human being anymore he is on his way out he is basically hollowed out by life its mummified and he is a frame old figure and a muffler and contrasting the boss who is sitting there very soft, very strong, very rosy and still going very, very well despite of page okay.

So this is something which a story makes quite clear, so immediately we have two different models of masculinity in the short story so one is a patriarchal South robots reasonably successful modern activity which is embodied of course by the boss was mainly do not know and in contrast to that we have the other model of mass activity which is frail, snail someone is shivering someone is obviously not in control of their senses, of his nerves and that is really field that is an activity embodied by we the field okay.

So we have this two models semester movie with visual story opens and obviously as readers we know or who is a more manly over to men, but and that is something which the story makes quite clear at the beginning and it is quite directly and explicitly clear that the bosses supposed to be seen as a manly successful, robust man was a completely in control of this life, of this profession with Korea of his emotions so it is completely in control is someone of the control up right, he is an authoritative privileged controller that is a figure the boss that they get in the beginning of the short story.

Now instantly it is a read the short story which you should for the purpose of this particular course when you see the architecture of the office in the boss so it is got loss of the electric heating, furniture, lovely knives the Financial Times and all this is lovely and that is obviously reflective of the boss's success the social success and his professional success, his emotional success he seems to be situated at the center of success so he is very much a center and means the center of success in the short story at least at this point in the short story when the story opens.

However, there is one thing which in a recipe draws attention to and it says quite clearly that when the boss is showing off his various gadgets there is various very phallic gadgets and if you look at the gadgets and mantels in that particular setting the very phallic the very phallic like and that is obviously reflective of the, at a very phallic privilege where the boss want to enjoy that a phallic way that phallic privilege that the boss monster inhabit and occupy and situations of in and that is very much there the entire phallic eccentric privilege okay.

Now what he is showing off he is very phallic gadgets would you feel with a narcissistic pleasure of superiority. Now there is one object that the narrator tells us that it does not show to what it feel and that object is a photograph of a boy okay, this is interesting there is a photograph of a boy that it does not show to would field, it does not draw the attention of would you filled with that photograph and this is interesting because what the darks is that we as readers, we are immediately a curious, we are immediately inquisitive, we are immediately we serve begin to know begin to ask what does it is photograph, who is in the photograph okay.

Now we do not know yet, we not given information yet you know in that short story is all we know at this point is that he did not show all this photographing with the field and this is a complete contrast to those things that it is only constrain almost everything we have to would field okay, despite the photograph that photograph is not shown to any field but we get to know now and this is such a local craft operation whereby we are told they give them a certain information by telling us and that to the process in which we are told at this information was not given to a person by default the information comes through us.

There is a way indirect way to convey a certain kind certain information, certain bit of information that we get to know in the short story and then obviously we are previously inclusive we want to know more but the narrative moves on from there does not does not dual on that particular topic for much longer just sort of blink on a mask of a think why you just get one line or one half sentence which tells us it did not draw the attention of what appeals to that one boy a great looking boy in soldiers uniform.

This is interesting and this is the first bit in the short story where they get to know this may have something to do with the law, but we do not know anything we do not know it except for this right. So we just get to see there is a photograph of a young boy in a soldier's uniform and that is all we get to know at this point we do not have any of information, we do not have any details

about the boy about the photograph or the soldier's uniform we do not know nothing, we just you know that it just situated somewhere in boss's table but that something he does not show off to other people okay.

Now there is an alleged move on and further consolidate the superiority of the boss and that is done very cleverly by looking by describing the inferiority the stability of both the field, so the similarity of what we feel is contrasted with a superior ability of the boss, so would appeal say he had come there to tell something to the boss, to say something to the boss but he cannot remember, you cannot sometime remember what it was okay, so he got out in the morning and when he came to visit the boss we have something in mind and he has something he wanted to say to the boss for the lack he firm he cannot remember what it was.

Now we get a little description about both the field at this point and we are told that he someone presumably retired he remembers basically confined to his house except on Tuesday and on Tuesday he is dressed up by his wife and his daughters and he sends off the city's allowed to go to a city on Tuesdays and then he did that the day when he said this is old friend, that is a day with his old relatives, buddies etcetera and that is the only day of freedom that he has okay.

Now for the rest of the week is completely you know imprisoned confined in his house for obviously and we do not get as probably because of medical reasons his is a very old man and he is not to be trusted and health-wise that is so that is why he is confined and cared but in his house by his daughters and his wife and he the only day it was allowed to go out his tuition, now what that shows us immediately and it is interesting is at this is the kind of culture whether men are controlled by the woman right.

This is the kind of culture where the woman are in control, the woman are decision-makers woman basically tell the man what to what good to would say and what not to do etcetera okay, so and this is I am going to talk a little bit now about the social condition of this time the culture condition of this time are more importantly with democracy condition of this time. So if we look at the demography after the first world war immediately after the first world war Europe.

You will find that the number of young men after the first world war decreased dramatically right, it was a dramatic decrease in a number of young men purely because that mostly men who went to fight for the world they had to go on fight for the world in the world the die all they came back could be paralyzed.

So there are very few healthy young men after the first world war so the entire demography after the first world war you know it is basically contributed by old man for towards go and fight for in the war and woman okay, and we know if you do a sociological study of here if you do a sociological study of the countries which have to be participating in the First World War you know that immediately after the First World War the woman began to take up occupations which were previously just controlled by men.

And these included being tram conductors is including included being working in post offices this included being bus conductors who concluded being in a driver for buses and trams etcetera because the simple reason that there were not enough men available after the First World War mostly young men who were doing their jobs who were controlling these jobs were either killed or crippled by the war okay.

So it was a necessity a fortunately certainty for the woman to come up and continue with the jobs, continue into this profession so it raises things a look at the demographic study after the First World War. Now bearing this in mind and it is something that a disability so you have ideal the cultural and social and demographic condition after 200 years old bearing this in mind if we come to in come to the short story the fly by Katherine Mansfield you find there to read the short story there is no young men in the short story.

The guys short story is peopled by old men and woman okay, and only young man mentioned in the short story is a dead young man someone's dead and we get to know and the course of a short story so that person in the boss's son again this is unnamed and anonymous is not named okay, so and he is someone who died in the world and he is symptomatic of symbolic he is reflective of the number of men he is the face of a young man who was enforced in a lot and were killed in the war.

So the entire demography in the short story the fly is reflected of the real demography in Europe after the first world war, so this is a cultural condition this is a demographic condition where you know the entire population is peopled by woman and old man and there is very few healthy normal young men left okay, so this if you take this and come back to short story and if you see that section where they get to another woody field the failed old man who is come to visit the boss. Now he is tied up in his house to the invited to the week except Tuesday and on Tuesday he



is brushed up dressed up and sent off to the city allows to go to City by the woman again they would allow over here is important which basically implies that a woman has ages over here.

As a woman who have the position of the decision-maker over here, because would appeal demand is not cryptology paralyzed is someone who is on the way out someone who is denials etcetera okay, so he is allowed to come to city on Tuesdays, he is allowed to visits his friends on Tuesdays, he is allowed to go out and do whatever they want to on Tuesday. So if we get to know now that this is a Tuesday that and it is contributed the boss it is a particular Tuesday at the boss is presumably old friends or maybe a colleague we do not have the information, but we know they know each other quite well at the waitress come to visit the boss and having conversations and the boss eternal superior.

So the narrator that he tells you getting a month solid satisfaction you are planted opposite the frail old figure in a muffler, so the boss is basically constructing or accentuating with own activity in contrast to the lack of masculinity embodied by would he field, so would he feels lack okay, the boss a position of privilege a feeling of privilege and I am so much better than this man so as we, you know masculine is very patriarchal very narcissistic kind of superiority the construct of superiority is to the other right.

The other which was defined by a lack when we thought about this a little bit in how to document our entire idea of civilization or the entire idea of European civilization and superiority of civilization was critically constructed through the other the African other the dark other the uncivilized other so the other words invented by Europe in order to kind of make them feel better about their own civilization about own superiority.

So likewise a more intimate level in this particular short story the construct of the boss the masters construct the boss of social success of you know professional success, emotional control so all this is done by contrasting it with the other and the other over here happens to be Winfield who basically is embodiment of black an embodiment of the lack of privilege so he is not in control of his nerves it does not have much of a financial agency and how much of an agency what so ever he is not allowed to step out of his house except in Tuesdays so he is someone is controlled by his wife and daughters and then we get to know again that enough he has come here to tell something to the boss and now he is forgotten about him.

Now at this point in short story, the boss opens his drawer and gives some and brings out a bottle of whiskey alcohol whiskey which he very you know with again the feeling of superiority he pours on whiskey in a glass and gets the devotee field and ask him to drink it and he pours one for himself as with okay, and the two did not drink and then we feel you know he is so you know he is amazed at his side he is fascinated by the fact that he is you know he is going to now harvesting and it tells about in a very feeble kind of a wave you know they do not let me touch this at home.

In other words is medically not allowed to have alcohol is medically not allowed to have whiskey and for that reason his wife and daughters do not let him have whiskey at home do not let him have any alcohol at home, okay. So again we find that you know would appeal is not just emasculated in the short story is almost infantilized normal to the child is normal as a baby who is been taken care of by the woman the wife and the doctors so in the infantilization of the Buddha field is a complete contrast to be the mask community of the boss who is superior, who is wrong with the social success and when someone is going on very well with his life, okay.

Now the moment what if you say that my wife and my daughters do not let me touch alcohol at home the boss's response is typically massive typically quote unquote manly and he says that is where we know a bit more than a lady's so the way the short story you will find this is what the passages he told what do you feel or do not worry about that if they do not let you touch this at home we did say a woman they do not know much that is what we know more than aliens that is where we know more than aliens.

So again the tone over here is very, very success but do not away are they going to supremacy of superior of the superiority to this genders and is obviously arrogant about this gender is the degree of massive arrogance which is embodied in she articulates in this particular passage when he tells little clearly oh do not worry about the fact that the woman do not let you drink at home you know we are two men here drinking on a Tuesday.

And that we know better than a woman there is no needs to consult the woman, there is only to listen to the woman they do not let you drink at home they do not know much I know much better and it is going to help you, so he pours down a little bit of whiskey in a glass and gets you would you feel and then swallow himself I do not even drink I am entire passage is sort of loaded embedded in very massive in it is a patriarchal arrogance supremacy of gender okay.

So it is white man's arrogance, the white man supremacy of its own gender, now so till this point in the short story is very unidirectional, so the boss is getting warmer superior the boss is getting more, more manly what if it is getting less and less manly, what if it is getting anymore more incentivized and boss is revealed to be someone who the total success was incomplete control is know he knows what he is doing and he wants to do he does things that they want to do etcetera he is someone rich Financial Times he is someone who has not night losing office he is someone who drinks whiskey in his office he is very manly and every sense of the word whisky to again of course the real manly drink sorry, drink with woody field okay.

So this till this point in the short story there is no ambivalence at all about the bosses construct of manliness over the bosses constructed an mass community, is completely unidirectional, is completely monolithic masculinity is hegemony masculinity the white man's masculinity of superiority of arrogance this is a point in the short story that things begin to take a turn okay, so the moments Woodsfield drinks the risk in the moment the vehicle consume the alcohol something gets inside his brain unease if it energizes a bit and are animated and he remembers what he had come to tell the boss okay.

Since this story had begun which would it feel obviously looking at the boss telling him that you know you are so, you know so snug in here is so comfortable away up and I have come here to kill me but cannot remember what is that I am shaking and shivering I am scenario but we are doing to escape it was given to him by the boss he remembers what he had come here for and what does he remember, he tells the boss oh by the way I am not a member what I came here to say to you and you know the thing is my wife and my daughters went to Belgium last week to take a look at poor Reggie's grades.

The Reggie presumably is a son of Woodsfield and reason why he is in the grave it is a bit was killed in the war, so we now begin to get the complete narrative which was sort of hidden and now we get in so go back under something which we should do as we just a little job that we should go back at the moment to get a point, the moment of some interpretation you must go back and look at something again and relook and revisit some metaphor some symbols which is offered to us before okay.

That symbol now we begin to realize was that photograph of a grave looking boy and uniform that the boss has planted in his office in his distance office but he does not show that out to the people that come to his office. So now we begin to know that perhaps the boss too has lost his son in the First World War. Perhaps he too has suffered a loss perhaps he too is a mona, perhaps he too has suffered a bereavement, perhaps not everything is not as great as it looks maybe the entire idea of the pyramid Mundi the entire idea of a pyramid ways supreme of superior of how does genders superiorlogy maybe this is a very superficial manner in which the boss wants to promote his masculinity and preserve it.

Remembers a desperate attempt on the part of the world may be it is not the robust, maybe it is not so solid, maybe it is just fragile, maybe it is just desperate attempt on the part of the boss to appear very, very superior, maybe just that okay. Now this point of shops we begin to get that kind of information so what do you feel goes on to tell the boss you know my wife and my daughters well in Belgium last week taking and look at poor regular's grave and it happened to come by your son.

And it is been fun to talk to you and get to know in other boss indeed have lost his son in the first world war and it will feel goes on to say they are very close to each other the two great lost close to each other and it is beautifully maintained, it is beautifully kept as we for looked after could be better if they were at home etcetera, etcetera, and then instantly he goes on to many more minor details they said you know by the way how much that the hotels enriched my wife and my daughters say they really charge them up in amount of money for the jam right.

And it is implicitly complimentary I my wife brought it back with her just to keep them a lesson and let me go to say sir invite just because we over there having a look does not mean we should trade on our feelings. So the idea the pointer where is the two British men the British men are talking about the wife and the daughter who are gone all the way to Belgians now we do not know the British there could be some other New Zealand but this is definitely not Belgium so there the wife and daughters are going to Belgium to take a look at the dead son's grave.

Now if we picture entire thing in mind and we begin to look at it from a lenses of gender studies what do we get, so we get a woman were travelling we get the woman who seek the financial agency, we get a woman who are visiting the site of laws where their men folk are parents and

the two old men away all the different gossip about it. So it is decision version of entire gender principle that we are accustomed to.

These we are accustomed to thinking that men have money men traveled, men metallization, men control the woman and a woman basically to stay at home and the gossip the blog of the men do etcetera, etcetera that is a very exist no typical reductionist understanding of gender the binary of gender and that is something we saw in the moon ship Prem Chopra story when a woman are in prisoned in the houses as I saw very clearly they are not allowed to step out to come to Devon Khanna and it is a men who inhabited Devon Conor that is where the place setter so to make all the business decisions etcetera, etcetera.

Well in this particular short story increasingly we see is the woman who travel and he contracted a heart of darkness in heart of darkness obviously the woman never travel the woman say in their home and their lives to the men goon the out, they conquer the world express other people sometimes they die and they comeback and listen form the woman that gives a woman every romantic rosy picture or what happens outside.

The woman never get to know so good was intended and heart of darkness is very typically a woman is that she never gets to know would really happen to the man, she is misinformed she flies to she gets a romantic report of the reality get to know the reality at all and that is again a very reductionist typical way of locating gender the women do not travel to momentum that know the women do not have any access to knowledge it is the men who have active to all this a normal to stay at home.

And they just talks to right, so they do not talk there are talks too so there never are the first person presence in any situation. In this particular short story but not clear and again this is interesting because this perhaps the only short story that we have only text that will do which is written by a female writer so the entire take is very different, entire takes is very, very and this the reason why I have chosen it if we contrast this with other text which it did which have done you will be with note they need a difference.

The point here is it is a woman who have gone and troubled and they are beamed to the site applause, they are being to what we grades are and they have come back and have reported to the men. So the complete inversion of what happens in home darkness the men does not travel the

men did not travel, the men just trade back what if you say that because the medical reasons the broad came back because there are other reasons am I get to know the other reasons very, very serious.

But the point is what particular is saying is that the woman my wife and my daughters they were here they were looking around we saw Reggie being son so you know it is my grave and they happen to come back your son your boys right, so your boys grave too is very close to where my boy's grave as there so very close to each other and beautifully looked after nice broad garden Parks and the entire description which follows subsequently is restored see kind of a description we talked about hotels, we talk about Jam prices, he talk about these minerals expensive expenses in hotel and expensive Jam and how basically you know it is wife was very unhappy with the jump prize I am going to drop down a jam with her in order to teach them a lesson etcetera.

Now I will just end the lecture today on again are connected to some social study from cultural study which did you know which we should do the read this particular short story, now what we have in a section is a example of what tourism right, or trauma tourism what tourism trauma tourism where people go and travel to other places to see experience of trauma to relive the experience of trauma so for instance Holocaust now it is a very good example of trauma tourism so people go to Austria and Poland to see the concentration camps are not these into the concentration capital Germany.

And many people go there to experience to re-experience what it must have been for some of the relatives who would may have been there or just to be by it to go there and take a look at what it must have been you know for those people who are actually in there. So the entire tourism industry is sort of it revolves around Roma it revolves around walk it revolves around loss so this to this example of trauma tourism so the Woodsfield wife and daughters that should go to the grave in Belgium to take a look at the son's grave right, to take a look at what the son lay buried okay.

So again just a woman traveling it is a woman going all the way there is no wonder how people have agency they appear to have agency, and they are the one looking down on those dead men so just look at the entire picture the old men do not travel they cannot travel one of them can

travel because the medical means another person cannot travel again for psychological reasons that we get to know that as we know short story later.

So there is a woman who travel the woman seemed to have power, money, agencies etcetera and the woman to go there to look down on the dead men so the men even either dead or crippled they either dead agency less there is a complete inversion of the gender binary that we are accustomed to see it is a complete inversion of the entire in a gender location the gender roles that it accustomed to see.

So entire trauma tourism in mountains flying is basically making a monument out of loss making a museum out of loss, making a memory out of loss, the collective architecture of memories the graveyard becomes an architecture of memory is like a museum an open air museum of memory people can go and revisit their grave for the death men folk, they can go and revisit the site of loss and they can be moon there and they can come back feeling good about themselves but the men do not go.

So the idea is the men are the crippled the memories are paralyzed psychologically or medically or they are dead. So again this the point I was trying to make a little while earlier the entire population in this particular short story is people with dead men and older men, so there are no young healthy men left right, so entire masculinity map in Mansfield the fly is a very problematic map so these are your dead as young man or your clippers or you are psychologically paralyzed if you are an old man there is people by woman and unhealthy non healthy men and that is entire demography in the short story which by the way it is a very authentic reflection of the real demography which took place which was there which features immediately after the first world war.

So immediately of the first world war in a very real sense there was no young men left, so there are very few young men I am not on exactly the very few young men who were actually there of the First World War very few healthy young men so the mostly young men who were there over Europe injured wounded traumatized paralyzed and so all the men who were there with these men the sick man on healthy men and the old men.

And of course this is a time when a woman was coming out of the houses the woman were taking of occupation for professions which were either too controlled by the men and the

occupations the professions were very much a part of civil society, public civil society like bus conductors, bus drivers, truck conductor etcetera. So they seem to have more agency as a movement again if you look at the way if you compare as the death of imperialism at the beginning of the end of imperialism also are equally at the beginning of the end of patriarchy a patriarchal control and the beginning of the emancipation of the colonies as a beginning of the emancipation of the woman.

The first world war is a real symbolic movement which really begins a trigger historically all these different phenomenon, the end of intelligence the end of patriotic control then the masculinity control and the beginning of the liberation of colonies to begin to the liberation of women and this is a short story which is basically at that cut off change right, it is a short story that historically is the cusp of change where the masculinity men are not so manly anymore and the woman who seemed to have more control over their life and what is around them.

So we will continue with the short story in the next lecture and this concludes the first lecture so thank you for listening and I will see you again as we move on with natural fly, thank you very much.

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