
The Veteran as Victim and Victimizer in Judith Thompson's *Palace of the End*: A Marxist Reading

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Abstract

War of Iraq has great consequences for US hegemony nationally and internationally. The American government adopted different methods to create false consciousness and to win the support of the public opinion before and during the war of Iraq. The power of the dominant discourses of the American political leaders have their influential part in the labels of the War on Terror. This paper shows how the political elite exploit the 11/9 attacks to create false consciousness and scare the American public. It shows how the American elite manipulate everything for their interests. They falsify truth terrifying Americans of the threat of Iraq. It also shows how these characters become victims and then turn to be victimizers. This study adopts the Marxist perspective as the theoretical approach in analyzing Thompson's *Palace of the End*. Frankfurt school helps to explain how the economic power leads to have the domination of social and political issues. Concerned with the concept of false consciousness, the study presents how the political elite is able to deceive their people. Therefore, the current study finds that political elite created moral panic and used the stereotypical image of Muslim as motivations and influential tactics in order to support war's decision. Moreover, the study concludes that the Soldiers fall victims to the deceptions of their government when they are manipulated and recruited in the army in war of Iraq. Consequently, they became victimizers when they come to Iraq.

Key Words: False consciousness, moral panic, 33 soldier, victim, victimizer.

Introduction

Drama as a literary form focuses on the subjects of war, violence, and terror as its main themes on theatre stages. The contemporary war drama is a reflection of the hard conditions and deep suffering of Soldiers and the civilians that come from war and its consequences. The invasion of Iraq can be understood by knowing the US strategic role in the Middle East and the interests of Bush's administration as great power. Iraq is considered the main source of US interests in the Middle East. Bush administration convinced the public to support the attack against countries that represent threat to U.S. The characters in the present day are manipulated by the political figures. The Soldiers in the current study are framed by the false consciousness of the elite. As a result of hard circumstances around them, the characters turn from being victims to victimizers .

The study provides a textual analysis of *Palace of the End* (2007) by the Canadian playwright Judith Thompson (1945). Thompson uses political stories happened during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The play shows that the female Soldier was recruited under the justification of protecting her country. She becomes a victim of the propaganda of Bush government relating to the war of Iraq. She turned to be a tool for her government's unjust intention to occupy Iraq. She had been taught to fight an enemy and it was an opportunity for her to prove her loyalty to her country. During her service, she turned to be a criminal and committed an atrocious crime that broke the human international laws and ethical values of war.

Various studies have investigated the *Palace of the End* through different literary aspects and interpretations. Firstly, Cristina Masters tackles this play in her study “*Femina Sacra: The War on/of Terror, Women and the Feminine*” (2009) from a feminist perspective. Christina's study discusses the role of women during war on terror. It explains how women are claimed politically in war time.

Moreover, in Maria Joaõ Ferreira and Pedro F. Marcelino which was titled *Politics in trauma times: of subjectivity, war, and humanitarian intervention* (2011), the study shows the relation between power, trauma, and subjectivity. It discusses the traumatic experiences of Thompson's character during the war and after it. Also, in her *Theatrical Strategies of Testimony in Judith Thompson's Palace of the End and Heather Raffo's 9 Parts of Desir* (2016), Sherine Moustafa analyses the text of Judith Thompson's *Palace of the End* as a part of political theatre and as a testimony play. She focuses on this concept as a part of truth investigation. She argues that the real personal stories can be considered as a raw material of testimony that can be

called as literature of testimony in drama. Additionally, Elaf S. Ganim in her Ph. D. Dissertation *Wartime Rape as Strategic Weapon in Selected Contemporary Plays Written in English* (2017) gives us a new sight for the aspect of rape. She deals with the concept of rape as strategic weapon which is intentionally planned in war time. She examines *Palace of the End* by Judith Thompson from strategic outlook. . So past studies discussed the selected play from political, psychological or traumatic points of views. No single study deals with it from a Marxist perspective.

Marxist perspective as Theoretical Framework

The recent study discusses Thompson's *Palace of the End* from a Marxist perspective. It analyze the play concentrating on the concept of false consciousness. Marxism is based on the belief that economic power is the main way for dominating all institutions as religion, education and media sources. Marxist perspective presents the ideology of the country when the dominating class manipulates its people to accept even its false decisions. It serves as a means to discover this influence of economic power in deceiving the public opinion. It shows the strategic role of the panic created by the dominating class. U.S. government creates threat to work as justifications to their war on Iraq. They deceived their people especially the lower class. Soldiers from working class were recruited to protect their country from the danger of the enemy. The false consciousness is defined as the state of mind in which a group does not recognize its own role toward their class. Marx (1880) suggests that the false consciousness refers to the distorted idea of special class society and the power of its own belief. He adds that elite frame and form the laws to protect their benefits. On the same hand, Lukas (1971) illustrates that the ideology was applied to those people who are alienated by the dominating power in order to legitimize specific experiences. Frankfurt School argues that elite succeed to frame the mind of public by using their tools. Frankfurt theorists believe that the mass culture in general and media in particular is the tool of oppression. They argued that mass media as a deception weapon is one of the false kinds and cultural production (Habermas 1991). Media as a way of communication helps to frame public mind. Media and Presidential rhetoric are the tools which create moral panic. This framing leads public opinion to accept the elite ideology (Cohen, 2002). The mass culture as media and the political rhetoric work as agents to frame the public opinion. So, Bush administration can drive their country to war. The war noticeably works as a production of elite for their interest and

the public are propagated under the influence of elite's lie of weapons of mass destruction. According to the domination of society by the elite or economic power, the result is manipulate them and lead them to accept all the elite action and believe all their lies (Chomsky, 2002). The social existence of the working class is framed and limited with economic capabilities according to their social class.

Iraq war creates a new way to fulfill the desire of U.S government to develop their economic power. It aims to increase their expansion in the Middle East region through its invasion on Iraq so it has a good chance to keep its control over the world. Actually, U.S government prefers its own interest over the international one. As a result, Iraq war is not for overthrowing Saddam regime and freeing Iraqi people or preventing Iraqi government from using Weapons of Mass Destruction or protecting the world from the threat of war terrorists. From Marxist theory, war on Iraq opens the door for the capitalist. Applying Human right is not Bush administration real aim but it aims to have and control over the oil that Iraq hold for expanding its economic power.

The elite alienated the working class from their real role. They dealt with them as instruments of production and treated them as objects not as human beings have who rights and duties. The false consciousness increased with the increase of punitive rhetoric of Bush in news to create false ideology. Additionally, concern and fear are the main elements of moral panic, used to frame public opinion and establish the social construction of reality. The power is able to form the construction of new social problem categories (Cohen, 2002). Moreover, Bush administration explores the moral panic and threat of American society using the stereotypical image of Arab and its alienation. The current study applies Frankfurt school views to examine the relation between dominating class and the production of war. Also, It refers to the concept of Other which was used by Bush administration as a motivation of panic creation in its war on Iraq 2003. It uses the stereotypical image of Arab and Muslim as terrorists to frame people's mind (Butler, 2009). The creation of panic and threat is one of the strategic weapon which are used by the elite and the political figures. The present study is based on the understanding that having economic power is the base of getting political and military forces. This belief leads to produce passive and negative people who have a blind trust of those in power without asking the authority of their act.

Discussion

Palace of the End is written as three one-act play represented by three monologues. The first monologue was written under the name *My Pyramids*. It was taken from the real story of Lynndie England. She was an American soldier who was convicted of prisoners abuse and sexual torture of several Iraqi detainees in Abu Ghraib prison. It shows that the Soldier was recruited under the justification of protecting the country but the real aim is serving the elite interest. She becomes a victim of Bush government propaganda of war. She turned to be a tool for her government unjust intention to occupy Iraq. She had been taught to fight an enemy and that it was an opportunity for her to prove her loyalty to her country. During her service, she turned to be a criminal and committed an atrocious crime with the help of her colleagues and for that she should pay the price for it as well as others. The scandal of Abu Ghraib becomes the thrilling and the controversial event in 2004. It represents the humiliation and control of Arabs and Muslims at the Abu Ghraib. Dora Apel (2012) stated that this event shows the “criminal and regressive image of imperial power in its less visible aspects” (p. 46). The use of sexual torture of prisoners by U.S. female soldiers creates shame in front of their families and communities. They threaten prisoners to become informants for the United States. U.S. media were portrayed as actors in covering up the activities of the U.S. military. Lynndie England is a female American soldier. She was convicted of torturing Iraqi prisoners then they were pictured and published in Media. She is holding the end of a leash that was pulling a naked Iraqi man by the neck. Thompson names her character ‘Soldier’ to give her a national and general identity. The play dramatizes the acts of rape in which the victims are men, making man rape no longer an anomaly (Cohen, 2013). She belongs to the working class. She suffers from poverty and she has bad economic and material conditions. So, she was recruited in American Army.

Cause I grew up with roaches. Road
Shit on the counters every damn
morning. Seen Roach shit on my toast
before ! I did not eat it.(Thompson, 7)

This quotation shows the poor condition of the character. Her poverty leads her to recruit in the American Army. Here, the character views her economic state. She is from lower class that needs to work to raise her state and do anything for the sake of getting money. The materialistic need obligate her to do the false actions. The hard economic need is the reason that leads female soldier to join the American army. She

chooses military work because she needs money to survive. She lives with insects so, she lives under miserable conditions. From this extract, the Soldier presents herself as a victim of poverty and miserable circumstances. Van Zoonen (2015) argues that there is a mechanism in Marxist perspective that creates mental processes. These processes have steps to produce false consciousness in the minds of working class people. The poverty is the first tool that helps the politicians to organize its dominance over others. Hierarchically, the economic power allows the elite to present its control on other classes. There are many reasons that lead American women to join the military system and agree to work as sexual investigators. Fusco (2008) points out that there is a clear increase in enlistment to American army nowadays. It is clearly that some women consider the military work as an exceptional educational and an opportunity and as an economic solution. In the struggle of war, America sets itself as a part of good and Iraq as a part of evil. U.S government created an appropriate justification for their crimes under the excuse of fighting terrorism. The Soldier as a victimizer reveals the acts of rape and other humiliation work of the prisoners. She looks to these prisoners as terrorists and she feels proud when she explains her active role in such obscene act. The power and dominance over the enemy achieve political goal. However, the Soldier has to do what her leader asks her as she states:

I am a soldier I am a soldier because I love my country

Because I grew up singing “ God Bless America”(Thomson, 10).

The soldier justifies her joining army just because she loves her country and wants to protect it. Here, the Soldier falls victim to the deception of her government. This Soldier aims to show her loyalty towards her country. To achieve an informative aim, Media portrays Bush administration in a good image and depicts Americans with image of patriotism. So, the American people were convinced of the legitimacy of war on Iraq which would bring freedom to Iraqi people and get rid their dictator regime. For Gramsci (1971) false consciousness is not the result of an individual's failure at cognizing the world, but it is rather a social , a group phenomenon instigated by the power structures of hierarchical social dynamics. He believes that these subordinate groups adopt a conception not of its own but borrowed from another group.(324-327) Additionally, Colin Powell portrays the war in a positive way referring to its necessity to support its happening. He accused Saddam for trying to acquire chemical weapons. In *The Washington Post* Powell states that the decision of

war is "Irrefutable," and it is "hard to imagine how anyone could doubt that Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction." (on Feb 5, 2003). Bush administration convinced its people that Iraq represents a threat for America. It has a great connection between Iraqi regime and Al-Qaida which is responsible the 11th September attacks. So, when the Bush administration decides to invade Iraq, a lot of American public want to join army and were recruited as the Soldier indicates in the following extract:

When I seen the call, when the recruiters
come to town, So handsome and real nice
talking to me so nice ... "Sure, I' will do
whatever it takes to protect my country"(Thompson, 10)

The soldier states that she loves her country and aims to protect it from the danger of enemy. The framing and manipulating of public opinion concerning war of Iraq is the way the Bush administration makes its people accept the decision of war. The moral panic is described by Goode as "the widespread feeling on part of the public that something is terribly wrong in their society because of the moral failings of a specific group of individuals" (1994.26). In the same words, He believes that the political rhetoric can get the authority that is necessary to frame public's thought about a threat of enemy. So, Bush administration convinces their people and public opinion that the aim of war of Iraq is to protect them from this dangerous threat, as the following speech reveals:

"they [will] rely on acts of terror and, potentially, the use of weapons of mass destruction—weapons that can be easily concealed, delivered covertly, and used without warning." (National Security Strategy, September 2002, p.15).

The Bush administration raises the threat concerning Iraq' weapons. American people thought that their government will do its best to protect them. Mills (1956) explains that the public people trust that the elite will act for their interest. This argument is exactly what happens in the issue of American people's deception. Bush administration portrays false image and frames the public consciences. The panic is heightened and reaches its climax when Bush calls Iraq as evil. So it successfully creates folk devil that threatens American security. The words like evil and terrorism are used by Bush to refer to Iraq past 9/11 more that pre- 9/11 period. Bush told Americans that Iraq is considered as a threat because it has chemical weapons and aims to develop it. This threat has a dangerous effect on America in particular and on

the world in general. So, the American are swept up in the panic and danger from Iraq. The Soldier is mentally disordered before she is recruited and joining the army. Then, the Soldier declares saying:

I will return one day, an American hero.

And that vision assured me that vanquishing the enemy,

vanquishing evil was what I was born to do (Thompson,12)

Here, the soldier shows that she was manipulated to be the hero who aims only to protect her enemy. She adds that her job only to defeat enemies. She promises to go back to her country after she is dismissed and fired from the U.S army. The play talks about the war of Iraq. American army invaded Iraq area, So, American soldiers look to Iraqis as enemies who must be defeated. It is an evil that must be vanquished. Then, the Soldier realizes that she was used as a tool in the hand of their leaders. She feels that she was misled and manipulated by her military leaders in her army. The latter left her facing her punishment to the anger of public opinion around the world as the following extract says:

None of them higher ups have spoke to me since it all
came crashin down on my head. Since they moved me
here to push around paper; I been waitin on their call,
but the only person ever calls me is Mommy.

And my lawyer. He says I am a scapegoat. (Thompson, 12)

From the extract above, the Soldier shows us that the government gave her up. It left her face the legal procedures as war criminal. Her ashamed action is considered as controversial issue as an inhuman crime. The Soldier expresses her disgust because no one visits her in the prison except her mother. It shows that the Soldier was recruited under the justification of protecting the country but the real aim is serving the elite's interest. She became a victim to Bush government propaganda of war. The Soldier menaced her leaders if they will leave her alone, she will tell the public opinion the truth of their deception and lies. She claims that no one from government wants to hear this news because it will destroy the personal, political and economic interests of elite. The juridical question of guilt has been limited and directed only to those who committed the acts of rape or towards those who were ultimately responsible for such acts and persecutions have been constricted to the most publicized cases (Butler

2009). Then, the victim Soldier became victimizer when she came to Iraq under the policy of their country as the Soldier reveals:

I was doin what had to be done, to get the intelligence
and that is I had a smile on my face but this was SERIOUS –
INTELLIGENCE -(Thompson,15)

The Soldier states that she is ordered to treat sexually against the Iraqi prisoners and she adds that the act of nakedness is a part of rape also. It is just a strategic military way in war in order to get information from the prisoners. Also, Bonn (2008) indicates that the fabrication of intelligence and the disinformation are used in the build up to the Iraq war. It is a common practice of Bush administration. The Soldier in the play was motivated by love of her country as well the policy of her government. She commits crime against Iraqi prisoners to gain information as she states:

We was not entertaining ourselves.
We was breaking down the terrorists. And it worked.
We did attain information... And it worked. We did attain (Thompson,16)

The extract explains that her government knows about the act of rape. The soldier only did her work which he was ordered to be done. The Islamic and Arab identity of the prisoners is taken in consideration by the perpetrator. The Soldier is completely aware of the religious and cultural considerations of sexual treatment. Bartone (2005) mentions that the cultural violations is used as a type of the torture and violation against the prisoners. He declares that in Abu Ghraib prison, the American soldiers obligated the Iraqi prisoners to do with taboo acts, and put them in shame conditions. He adds that such act of torture broke down social codes that related to their own culture and religion. Additionally, the leaders know well the influence of such acts on the prisoners as Arabs and Muslims characters. Therefore, they attack them sexually to degrade them. They break the prisoners' psychology through these dirty sexual acts. They aim to humiliate them and their nationality. So, this will socially attack the victim identity and lead him to have traumatic experience and even cause mental damage . (Russel, 2007). Then, in order to justify the American invasion of Iraq, Iraqi people are formed as an enemy, as they are reflected in Thompson's play. The Soldier assumes that their leaders manipulated and framed the American soldiers to convince them that these prisoners are the terrorists who are responsible for the 11 September attacks which cause the death of thousands of American citizens as she states in the following extract:

guys who had

KILLED AMERICANS. GUYS WHO WERE

PLANNING ANOTHER 9/11 (Thompson, 18)

Before its war on Iraq which is accused of having Mass Destruction Weapon, Bush administration has another war along with its war on Iraq. It uses the Weapon of Mind Deception in its war on the consciousness of American people to deceive them and frame their mind to accept the war of Iraq. The public opinion can be framed by elites to achieve its interest. So, the influence of embedded Media when she indicated that in the war of Iraq, the U.S and U.K military troops do their illegal and injustice actions against Iraqi people. After the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, American government started to use their power and policies in order to deal seriously with the needs of invasion of Iraq. They justified that decision by convincing the public opinion that there is a relation and co-operation between Saddam Hussein and Al-Qaeda as Bush illustrates:

“you can’t distinguish between al Qaeda and Saddam when you talk about the war on terrorism. They’re both equally as bad, and equally as evil, and equally as destructive” (E. Sanger. 2002).

The creation of threat and fear necessarily needs moral panic to be directed in the right way to achieve its goals. The propaganda of war is an important element in the war, so the government aims to find a plan in which their agenda can achieve its aim and be the main frame of the debate. The governments exploit their people by using political propaganda and deceptive media to serve their own agenda. The system of propaganda is built on fake reports and stories that are planted on embedded journalists who deceive their readers. Rape is one of the crimes that is committed by the American soldiers against the Iraqi prisoners in Abu Grab prison under the name of Abu Graib scandal. Here, the female American Soldier represents the victimizer and the Iraqi pensioners represent the victims. According to Fusco (2007), all covenants of torture specify that it includes treatment aimed to humiliate the victim as well the issue of forced nakedness which is considered as a kind of rape as Zawati (2007) illustrates. The Soldier explains her practice against the prisoner saying:

And I am very proud to say that the naked human pyramids
WAS ALL MY IDEA. It' the first thing that come to my mind
when I walked into that prison and seen all them men that look
exactly alike. what might be fun: HUMAN PYRAMID WITH

I know NAKED CAPTIVE MEN (Thompson, 15)

Although, the Soldier feels proud because this shamed action is her plan, but the real motive of this act is the political and military agenda. The American Soldiers use their power against the weak and powerless prisoners when she enforced them to be naked. She puts the naked prisoners like human naked pyramid. The Soldier uses inhuman way in the rape action. Butler (2009) believes that the framed images of sexual and physical humiliation are regulated to exploit the specific sexual vulnerabilities of these Arab characters. The Soldier diminishes the wretchedness of her action saying:

So what they were naked So? They get naked every time they have shower. So ?And as far as me laughing and pointing at the guy's willie?

Well tie me if that's the worst thing happened to'em in AbuG. (Thompson ,15)

Under the influence of false consciousness and moral panic, the American soldier became a victim and a tool in the hand of elite (Bush administration) to serve its own interest. They were manipulated and their minds are framed. In the extract above, the female Soldier refers to the part of the prisoner body in ashamed way and without any hesitation. Bush administration manipulates their soldiers to do anything in order to defeat their enemy. The soldiers work to humiliate and degrade the prisoners. They want to reveal their power and domination over the powerless Iraqi pensioners who fall victims to the unjust war of Iraq. The system of recruitment in the American army is based on training the soldier to be hard-hearted. Every soldier must do anything to serve their country. This idea is being clear in the soldier's speech in the following extract:

that's what someone who I will not name in very high up position
me that we would eventually get citations for service to military
intelligenceand even medals because we are takin the fall (Thompson,11).

The extract above shows the idea of the manipulation of Soldiers by their military commanders. The latter taught the soldiers to be violent with the Iraqi people because they represent the devil for them. They must promise to do anything for America's sake. This type of torture and victimization is not done by individual attack but it's a strategic weapon directed against the humanity. It does not deal with certain individual or part of people in the specific society but it is a means in which the enemy can be dismissed. This way of victimization attacks their social, religious, and personal reputation of those soldiers. In addition, this act gives up their human dignity. The Soldier was motivated by her national hatred to prisoners and her hope to

get revenge from Muslims. She believes they are responsible for the 11 September attack. She justified perpetrating acts of rape against prisoners in Abu Ghraib, and then she justifies this hatred in a violent description of her acts saying that:

I was the BIG boss of these BIG DEAL TERRORISTS,
Guys who had Killed AMERICANS. GUY WHO WERE
PLANNING ANOTHER 9/11, dude, AND YOU ARE
UPSET THAT laughed AT THEIR WILLIES. (Thompson,18)

In this extract the Soldier uses the word terrorist many times in the play. This repetition intensifies the relationship of hatred between the American Soldiers and Iraqi captives. Also, the 11 September attacks represents the most important motivation for the female soldier abuse. She thought that the Arab and Muslim are responsible for these terrorist attacks and they will plan to do another terrorist action against her country. She is motivated by the love for her country as well as the stereotypical image of Arab and Muslims. Moreover, she is influenced by the deception of Media that Muslim is the evil and the enemy for American people. Mass Media convinced American people that Muslim is responsible for the 11 September attacks. They aim to revenge for the death of thousands of innocent people in the mentioned attacks. So that, Abu Ghraib's crime can be considered a revenge reaction of the manipulation of public and the deception of U.S elite. In the following extract, the Soldier justifies her action by saying that:

I thought of the Twin Towers and all them
people running and I thought I'm takin your
soul first. I'm takin your soul down tike... (Thompson,19)

The extract above shows the way that the Soldiers look toward the Iraqi prisoners as terrorists. They are manipulated that the abuse act against them is the way that lead them to demoralize the will of the enemy. After the 11 September attacks against the twin tower of World Trade Centre, Bush administration announced what is called the war on Terror. Relating, war of Iraq is considered as one part of this war because Bush administration argues that there is a strong relationship between Iraqi regime and Al-Qaida which is responsible for the terrorist mentioned attacks. Consequently, concern and fear are the main elements of moral panic, used to frame public opinion and establish the social construction of reality. The power is able to form the construction of new social problem categories. (Cohen.2002). So, Bush administration aims to take advantage of 11 September attacks to remove Saddam regime by the

adoption of the policy of “preemptive strikes” against any country, group or organization that has a threat to U.S. So, Bush announced that war of Iraq is just a part of war on terrorism. He presents his administration’s policy that is called the “preemptive act” as he reveals:

United States will act against . . . emerging threats before they are fully formed. . . . defense by acting preemptively against such terrorists. We must be prepared to stop rogue states and their terrorist before they are able to threaten or use weapons of mass destruction. (Bush speech on September, 17, 2002)

In political propaganda there is organization in political persuasion, strategic political communication and public relations. So that this kind of manipulation that causes false consciousness within the American Soldiers leads them to show the hatred towards the Iraqi people in presenting many reasons that justify their crimes under the justification of war on terror. The American Soldier in this case as a victimizer knows very well that this crime humiliates the prisoners and she looks to them as terrorists. While the Iraqi prisoners are portrayed as America’s enemy and have a barbarian image, the American Soldiers are portrayed as the civilized liberators. Frankfurt theorists believe that the mass culture and media in particular are the tools of oppression and media as a deception weapon is one of the false kinds and cultural production (Habermas, 1975). So that Bush admiration uses the image of Muslim in the creation of fear and panic. Because of Al-Qaida is responsible for the 11 September attacks, American public are framed that Muslims are terrorists. The latter represented the enemy which must be defeated. The Soldier aims all the time to insult the image of Muslim as a way of revenge from them as a result of the moral panic after the 11 September attacks.

I think he was like, a holy man. Ronnie goes to him:

“ Hey you. Wise Man. Mullah. Fuck him, fuck your friend there in butt, man! Do it now ... Take a shite... to the man ...make him ...eat his shit! he gets the Rakee to kiss the Holy Man with his mouth full of shit” (21-22)

Moreover, the Soldier shows the most deniable face for the dehumanization when she deliberately insult the religious Iraqi prisoner. Although, the Soldier knows the position of the religious man in Arab and Muslim culture, but intentionally insists to dishonor his dignity. Russel (2007) indicates that the act of rape influences the personal and social identity of the victim. It shook his own psychology and personal control. Besides, in an ashamed and inhuman way, the Soldier enforced the religious

man to act sexually with his friend. Salih (2017) states that such treatment can be considered another kind of mental and physical violence. It degrades the prisoner's dignity and value. Additionally, The soldier obligates the Iraqi prisoner to "*eat his shit*". She uses her power over the weak prisoner as the means to act violently against them. She was manipulated to be wicked in her treatment with them. The Soldier becomes victimizer and a tool in the hand of her government to achieve inhuman aims. So, Abu Ghraib's crime is an appropriate incident that clarifies the second and real face of Bush administration policy relating to the war of Iraq. The Soldier dehumanized the Iraqi prisoners when she describes them in this way. She believes that they are animals not human being. She degrades their dignity and humanity. The victimizer Soldier enforced the religious man to act in homosexual in spite that it represents a forbidden act in Islamic culture as Paur (2011) mentions. The Soldier and her leaders know well the personal, social as well as psychological consequences of such act on the Muslim prisoners as Salih explains:

"Realizing the societal stigmatization of homosexuality especially in Arabic Muslim societies, Soldier intentionally adopts it as a strategy to humiliate the victims into giving up resistance"(2017. 226).

Moreover, Galli (2009) argues that there is a new portrayal of the enemy nowadays in which some governments "criminalized, morally discredited, and dehumanized" the enemy.(p,205). In this respect, the sexualized torture was created to offend the identity and values of prisoners. Eve Ensler believes that the framing of soldiers' mind teaches them to see Iraqi people as less than human. (2007.18) Additionally, the following extract emphasizes this idea:

according to their culture, we laugh at their willies
was worse than a beating, way worse (15)

From the extract above, the Soldiers indicate that such act will be more painful than the beating of the Muslim prisoners. The Soldier realizes as well as is taught by her leaders that the Muslims and Arabs will be damaged by this kind of torture and humiliating abuse. According to Salih (2017), the fun feeling that comes from torturing Muslims prisoners is one of political agenda which aims to dehumanize them, attack their dignity and damage their psychology. The soldier believes that Abu-Ghraib crime against Iraqi Arab Muslims prisoners is done to protect her country. The power is the distinguished element concerning the conflict between the

American Soldiers and the Iraqi prisoners. Power and its source is one of the most important instruments in war for those soldiers in U.S army (Butler 2009).

Conclusion

Thompson's play *Palace of the End* represents a powerful criticism for the American crime and the nature of inhumanity treatment. The study finds how the political elite is able to deceive their people about the legitimacy of the invasion on Iraq. Consequently, it concludes that the political figures exploit the false consciousness of the public and manipulated them via media deception and the misleading of political rhetoric. They aim to have public opinion support to the decision of war according to certain political agenda and elite interests. The female soldier in the presenting play was manipulated and misguided by her patriotism and willingness to abuse the Iraqi prisoners who were considered as terrorists. She falls victim of a system that recruits and scapegoats the underprivileged people. The study concludes that *Palace of the End* gives us a stage direction that indicates the three performers. This kind of humiliation through these sexual terrible acts against the Iraqi prisoners adds an instrumental role to rape instead of the individual inclusion. This connection is based on self-identification and national sense and political interest as active elements in violating the prisoners in the play through associating it with politics and religion. The study shows that the female Soldier has been bullied and then she has been a bully. It means that the soldier transforms from victim to victimizer. She falls victim of a system that recruits and scapegoats her under war of Iraq. Then, she changes from misguided victim to a victimizer when she came to Iraq and abused Iraqi prisoners.

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