

The whole episode of their courtship is clearly drawn in the novel. Lydia was, in fact, a well-read, well-bred woman. She had refined tastes which did not match the coarseness of her husband, and their marriage proved to be a disaster. Gertie, too, is shown as a high-minded, proud, pious woman. She tries to reform her husband - who has strong drinking habits. Here also the marriage knows an utter disaster. Very much like Lydia, Gertie also, after her frustration with her married life, transfers her affection to her sons, first to William and then to Paul. William in the novel is the same as William Earnest, Lawrence's eldest brother in actual life. Lydia was attached to her eldest son, William, but after his death Lawrence became the apple of her eye. Paul also, after his brother's death, comes very close to his mother. Lawrence has presented, through the character of Paul, his mother-fixation attitude in life. Lawrence was emotionally dependent on his mother and loved her like a lover. Paul is also shown to develop unhealthy attachment with his mother which later cripples him, as it had done the author himself, to get along smoothly with any other woman.

Lawrence's love life is truly portrayed in the novel. Lawrence meets Jessie Chambers at a young age and feels deeply attracted towards her. The character of Miriam in the novel is drawn after Jessie Chambers. She is shown to be a shy and spiritual girl. But as in real life, Lawrence is not able to establish satisfactory relationship with Jessie Chambers for a lifetime, Paul too overcomes the love of Miriam and feels that her spirituality is too much for him. Lawrence's mother never approved of Jessie Chambers as Gertie Morel never approves of Miriam. Paul like Lawrence, under the influence of his mother leaves Miriam.

Clara Daves comes as a substitute to Miriam in Paul's life. She is drawn from three different women in Lawrence's life, namely Miss Burnow, Miss Karke and Mrs. Alice Dax. Clara is shown as a sensuous woman. She is a married woman living

"God if it is thy will, I should love Paul Morel, Make me love him as Christ would, who died for the souls of men - Make + me love him splendidly, because he is thy son".

SONS AND LOVERS

- David Herbert Lawrence

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS IN SONS AND LOVERS

Sons and Lovers is surely an autobiographical novel. It was published in May, 1913 and is a unique and memorable classic. Lawrence's life is clearly reflected in his creative work. His personal experiences are

"so inseparably intermingled with his literary creations that if they are at all separated from each other, his writing will start withering like a flower."

J. M. Munsey goes to the extent of saying;

"There is, and can be, only one true life of Lawrence, and it is contained in his works...."

Sons and Lovers is the finest example of this characteristic of D.H. Lawrence. The novel is an acute expression of his inner sufferings, frustrations and emotional complexes.

The personal colour in the novel is present from the very start. Lawrence is himself portrayed as Paul, the protagonist of the novel. The family atmosphere of Paul, as presented in the novel, is a proto-type of Lawrence's own family circumstances. Lawrence's parents never enjoyed conjugal married life. The relationship between them was bitter and brutal. A similarity can be seen between the parents of Paul and of Lawrence. Walter Morel, Paul's father, is indeed an image of Lawrence's father, Arthur John Lawrence. Similarly, the character of Paul's mother, Gertrude Morel is drawn after Lawrence's own mother, Lydia. Like Gertrude, Lydia was deserted by a young man in her youth. She met Arthur at a party and was attracted by "his graceful dancing, his musical voice and his kind manner." Similarly, Gertrude is taken in by the charm of Walter Morel when she meets him at a party.

separately from her husband, Baxter Dawes. She does not object to their marriage relationship with Paul. But their love has no depth. Eventually Clara, in the novel, breaks off her adulterous relationship with Paul as Alice had broken off a similar relationship with Lawrence.

"Good-bye, she said, giving him her hand. Then she glanced at him for the last time, dumb and humble."

There is a close resemblance even between the circumstances of the death of Lawrence's mother and the death of Paul's mother. Lawrence's mother fell seriously ill, and Lawrence, with the help of his sister, put a plenty of morphia into his mother's milk in order to hasten her death. Like-wise, in the novel, Paul's mother falls critically ill and eventually Paul with his sister Annie, puts a lot of morphia into his mother's milk to lessen her lingering pain.

"It's a new sleeping draught the doctor gave me for you, he said. He thought it wouldn't leave you in such a state in the morning."

The novel is not only autobiographical in its theme, emotional outlook and characterization, it is also subjective in certain scenes and locale. It records the places and incidents that were a part of Lawrence's own life. The village Bestwood, as shown in the novel actually represents Bestwood, the place where Lawrence was born and brought up. Hence we can safely conclude that Sons and Lovers is a novel that uses autobiographical material to put forward a certain attitude to life, an attitude that reflects the author's own personality very vividly. It is an imaginative, literary, selective transcript of the memories and experiences of Lawrence's life.