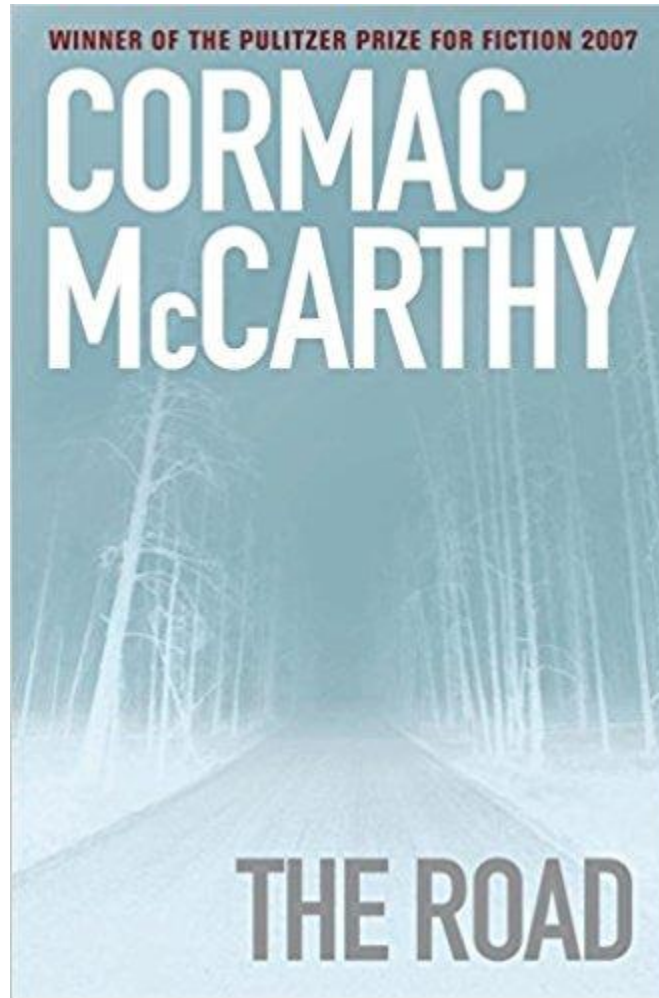


Gender Studies in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*

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Courtesy: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Road-Cormac-McCarthy/dp/0330447548>

Abstract

This paper deals with the brief history of the Post-apocalyptic Fiction, “The Road”. Cormac McCarthy is an American Writer. The novel deals with the theme of Gender studies. This novel deals with two unnamed persons man and his son as they seek to survive. The Author is a

specialist to give masculine gender very effectively and lack of female character. The woman is the wife of man and mother of the boy. The female characters are not found in the novel, the author did not give importance to the female character. The man portrayed as survival and boy as Morality. The man surviving toils in nature. The journey seems to be tough, that makes man and the boy feel hungry. Identifying the food is a continual struggle. The man falls in sick in the Journey. Nature is one thing, but man and boy survive other humans. The boy portrays as clear authority on morality. The man faces many struggles in their journey. His main intention is to protect his boy from others.

Introduction

American literature concentrates the area of United States and its preceding colonies. Literature is the record of human experience and people have always impelled to write down their impression of life. American literature was a series of British colonies on the eastern coast of the present day United States. Therefore, its literary tradition begins as linked to the broader tradition of English literature. However, unique American characteristics and breadth of its production usually now cause it to be considered a separate way and tradition.

The American Post-Apocalyptic novel has emerged as a distinct type of fiction, beyond the area covered by the well-known fiction, across what has been termed as the land of a believable likelihood where the scared plays an important part. The Post-Apocalyptic world, the life changing event has occurred and human existence as we currently know it has drastically changed.

Gender studies are a field of study dedicated to gender identity and gendered representation. This field of study includes women's studies and men's studies, queer studies. The term gender should be used to refer masculinities and femininities and not to the state of being male or female is it's entirely.

Cormac McCarthy

Cormac McCarthy is an American novelist, playwright, and screen writer. He has written ten novels, spanning the southern gothic, western and, Post-Apocalyptic genres. He was born in 1933 and published his first novel *The Orchard Keeper*, *Suttree*, *All the Pretty Horses*, *Blood Meridian*, *No country for Old Men*, *Cities of the plain*, and *The Road*. Cormac McCarthy's most popular work is *The Road*.

Contemporary writers Don DeLillo and Thomas Pynchon are so dissimilar in style, tone, sense of humor. Philip Roth and McCarthy are opposites, but they belong to the same tradition of postwar American literary fiction. These four writers were nominated for the Nobel Prize of literature in 2014. *Suttree* for Cormac McCarthy, *Gravity's Rainbow* for Thomas Pynchon, *American Pastoral* for Philip Roth, *Underworld* for Don DeLillo.

The Road

The Road novel is a Post-Apocalyptic genre, depicting the strength of masculine gender survives in the disaster world. This novel moves with two protagonists. This novel depicts two unnamed persons "the man" and his son "the boy". The female character takes the place of

mother role, but she does not survive longer in this novel. She exists in their dreams only. She kills herself because of she lost hope to survive in the burned America. In the destroyed world of America, the masculine gender roles present in several sides as well. McCarthy's treatment of gender is suitable to the topic of masculinity, because in this novel focus on the relationship between father and son.

Destroyed World

The Road is in a destroyed world. The man is represented as a survivor and the boy is represented as morality. The man's main intention is to stay safe from the bad guys and cannibals and keep the boy alive, and they are travelling to the east coast to escape from the oncoming winter and "the road becomes the great symbol for the struggle to survive".

Men are considered the stronger and tougher sex; they get success through the individual effort. The man and his child lived in Post-Apocalyptic America. There has been a radical change in the society. In the case of road, the nature of culture and society have changed very dangerously in that place where the man wants to protect his child.

The Role of Father

The role of father is portrayed very well. This science fiction genre gives a wild protagonist showing his bravery and physical power to keep alive. The man has more responsibilities than as a father because the man is his only living parent and so he must be a caretaker for his child who struggles to protect his child make him for survival. He gives food to his child and the man, not only regard to the boy's physical health and safety but also in regard to his emotional and mental health; otherwise the boy would be miserable. He lost his hope for living. The man and the boy are alone in that ashy, burnt, violent world. He has always recognized that he is living only for his child, but the boy's life is in danger. "That the boy was all that stood between him and death." (McCarthy 29). The man is a remarkable character. The man feels that crying is avoided by males because it is ashamed, his son is precious to him in the world, so he loves his son very much. The man repeatedly said to his boy not to cry and even become stronger then only make themselves safe from others. He thinks his main job is to protect his son, and god created him for that purpose. "My job is to take care of you. I was appointed to do that by god. I will kill anyone who touches you". (McCarthy 80)

The morality is seen everywhere in the novel. The man and boy are out in unforgiving, dangerous world. Where they make slight mistake, it leads to death. The man presents his strength, responsibilities, morality all these shown the masculine gender. "Are we going to die sometime, not now?" (McCarthy 9) Danger is ever present to the man and the boy in their journey. Throughout the novel reflects the strong bond between father and son. The main purpose of father is to make his son alive, at the same time the man is trying to be one of the "good guys", the humans who avoid violence, but he is do anything to protect his boy from the bad guys.

Yes. We're still the good guys.
And we always will be.

Yes. We always will be.
Okay. (McCarthy 81)

The bad guys have no loyalty even their own members; they kill their own gang members violently. The man always leaves the pistol with the boy when he goes him alone. He said to his boy that if he attacked kills himself with his pistol, while the man is always trying to protect his son. It will show he will take risk to protect his and proves his love to his son as a father.

Violence in Journey

The journey is filled with excessive violence. The landscape where the scarcity of resources has driven the few survivors are by cannibalism. "I'm really scared." (McCarthy 75). The man thinks if one who wants to survive in this world reveal his strength to who make violence against them. The author shows the strength of masculine gender and his responsibilities to protect his son.

The morality also is seen here: if anyone makes violence against them then only if necessary he attacks to make his own safety from others. The strength of the man is used to survive based on morality. The masculine gender's importance also shows in this novel.

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