



## Exploring Revenge Sentiments in *the Lost Apothecary*: A Psychoanalytical Study

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### ABSTRACT

*This research aims at exploring Sarah Penner’s The Lost Apothecary viewing it as psychoanalytical writing. The text portrays the long lasting physical and psychological impacts of unfair treatment of females by males. The protagonist Nella Clavinger, as a first-person narrator, presents the clear image of how revenge has left permanent marks on her physical and mental health. The study focuses on tracing the causes of revenge stemming from a combination of anger and hate. Moreover, it examines the individual and collective strategies of characters to execute the revenge plans. The text has been analyzed in the light of Sigmund Freud’s Psychoanalytical lens of Structural Psyche Theory (1923). The element of anger, which was found to be the prime agent behind revenge, has been studied in the light of John Dollard’s Frustration aggression theory (1939), and hate from the stance of Agneta Fischer (2018). The study finds that it is the maltreatment of female characters at the hands of male counterparts which creates anger and hatred in them. The emergent emotions lead them towards developing revenge plans and they execute their plans relentlessly.*



## Introduction

*The Lost Apothecary* explores deep into physical and psychological complexities that affected the life of protagonist, Nella Clavinger and her crime partner, Eliza Fanning. It intricately examines the social and legal dilemmas, unveiling the multifaceted layers of social subjugation of women, legal corruption, decline of moral values, and various social wickedness. It also explores themes of betrayal, the quest for justice, women empowerment, and the consequences of women choices for their liberty. It is an attractive blend of historical fiction, mystery, and revenge strategies. It

received positive reviews from readers and critics which became the cause of its popularity due to profound treatment of supreme themes.

The novel casts unwavering light on the chaotic life journey of the protagonist, Nella. In a narrative style, twisting revenge story reflects the effects on the physical and psychological health of the character's life. Nella entertains us masterly with secrets of her existence, a fabric woven with the threads of her revenge, anger, and hate, stretching from the peak of her initial betrayal to the emerging sentiments of her revenge taking systematic planning. With an astonishing skillfulness of storytelling, Nella adequately describes the thoughts and emotions of her character, populating the narrative all through a first-person omniscient viewpoint. It is evidence by her story telling skills that, despite of her guilt, regret, fear of exposure, conflicted loyalties and loneliness, she emerges as a reliable character. Her revenge strategies are a source of insight into the chaotic world around her.

Nella is a fascinating character in the novel. On the other hand, she is seen as an apothecary of herbal ingredients, but secretly she dispenses poisonous herbs only to the victims to kill nasty men and take revenge just to quench her own thirst for revenge. Her shop is a famous women's apothecary shop in 3 Back Alley having a single room. The apothecary shop once belonged to her mother who sold herbal remedies to heal women. After the death of her mother, Nella was very disappointed. The sudden arrival of Frederick in Nella's shop becomes the cause of happiness in her life. They fell in love with each other and grew very close in no time. Nella's betrayal at the hands of Frederick and the loss of her child force her psychologically to start a secret apothecary shop behind the wall of her original apothecary shop. Her purpose is to clean the world from unfaithful men. She wants to help all the female victims and relieve them from such nasty people who betray and spoil the lives of women. It spoils the true image of her mother's apothecary shop, and she enters the darker realm. The relationship between trust and betrayal clearly states the crisis of Nella. She trusts and loves Frederick but suffers betrayal that leads her towards moral ambiguity. She realizes that she does not have any value. She is only used by Frederick for her nasty and lusty desires. Even the unborn child becomes the victim of his lust. Nella started this secret mission twenty years ago in 1770.

The need of revenge from betrayed men becomes the motto of Nella's life. She states that the world has only one disease, and that is the unfaithful and disloyal husband. It shows her feelings of anger due to betrayal from Frederick. Nella vows to help all those who were not able to root out the cause of their betrayal distress. The establishment of her secret apothecary shop with its rules clearly demonstrates her intentions to take revenge. Emotional and psychological effects have lasting impacts on Nella's personality. She knows the moral and legal outcomes, but her psychological effects force her to take revenge. The first encounter between Nella and Eliza starts the series of unsolved mysteries, untold secrets, and unrevealed betrayal, loss, hate, anger, and revenge. They both reveal their own sufferings and sorrows and become intimate with each other. Their motives and purposes are the same as they are traveling on the same route. Eliza becomes her crime partner and works as an apprentice with Nella. Their bond of love, affection, care, and loyalty is remarkable in the text. Eliza's desire to kill his master is due to her hate and anger for Mr. Amwell. She faces moral and psychological conflicts by killing her master with the help of poison to release her anger and frustration which ultimately leads her to fear and guilt. The solidarity between Nella and Eliza is portrayed as the collective efforts of women against the cruel society of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The characters of Nella and Eliza who work collectively for revenge purposes without considering the consequences of their actions because they feel satisfaction and relief. The mysterious nature of

apothecary shop sustains mystery in the whole novel. Nella's character is complex, a mixture of human weaknesses and strengths making her very interesting character in the novel in psychoanalytical domain. Her assistance of victims along her own physical and psychological stress is remarkable, which makes her a strong character in the novel. Her mental stress and psychological conflict excite her to adopt revenge strategies more and more because of her unquenchable thirst for revenge and to demolish all callous men from the world. She considers it her moral responsibility and accountability to keep alive the history of all female victims of 18<sup>th</sup> century for future generations. She has dual work, she sells herbal ingredients to ailing ladies, and she also sells poison at special requests of oppressed ladies.

The novel explores Nella's reflective journey from healer to poisoner and killer. It leaves everlasting influences on her physical and mental health. The psychological effects are visible due to enactment of wicked task of taking revenge. Eliza, the crime partner of Nella, also has fears and psychological problems after committing murder of Mr. Amwell at the request of her mistress, Mrs. Amwell. Anger and hate stimulate Nella and Eliza to commit murder, knowing the severe threats and wicked outcomes of legal authorities. The regret and guilt are visible in the characters of Nella and Eliza by the end of the novel. Nella, the apothecary provides poison for seeking revenge against those men who have done wicked deeds with innocent and suppressed ladies. Her regret begins from the unintended consequences of poison dealings that was initially determined by Frederick's betrayal and loss of her child. She becomes remorseful due to her avenging acts that are leading her towards doom. Eliza feels fearful after the murder of her employer, Mr. Amwell. Her guilt becomes more complex due to her involvement in Nella's fascinated work of apothecary shop. Eliza's struggle with her conscience tore her between loyalty towards Nella and desire to remain aloof from wicked acts of revenge. The regret and guilt have impacts on one's choices and search for salvation. The interconnected fates of Nella and Eliza describe how guilt and regret haunt both of them for transformation in their characters for their healing and self-analysis.

Nella's attitude is not merely individualistic or subjective, it vibrates with the themes of betrayal, revenge, secrets, empowerment, moral decline, legal corruption, social exploitation, guilt and regret. This outlook matches smoothly with the overarching narrative of female victims of 18<sup>th</sup> century, who similarly struggle with the complicated sentiments of betrayal, revenge, hatred and anger. Sara Penner's *The Lost Apothecary* (2021) is a perfect example of historical fiction having psychoanalytical perspective that struggles with the mental conflicts and psychological issues of suppressed, suffered and exploited women of 18<sup>th</sup> century era. Penner's *The Lost Apothecary* (2021) provides perceptual exploration of this psychoanalysis work.

This research aims to dig out the answers of the following research questions.

- 1) What makes Nella Clavinger to think and develop revenge strategies?
- 2) What type of psychological effects is witnessed when she takes revenge?

## **Literature Review**

A good deal of literature has been produced for centuries about people taking revenge due to personal sufferings they encounter in their life. It elaborates the roots of anger, hate and revenge in context of selected theories. In order to give a comprehensive idea about psychological effects of revenge, revenge based struggle as well as the development of anger and hate into revenge has been elucidated which cover the basic themes of injustice and betrayal. The psychological effects of revenge have become a universal trend and we can find plenty of literature on this idea. The desire to get justice through revenge does not seem new, but the combination of anger and hate

with revenge elaborates the developmental progress of revenge, away from traditional bloodshed for revenge in a secret way.

The selected novel *The Lost Apothecary* (2021) has been analyzed critically from different articles, thesis and book reviews in which views and opinions of different critics about the style of writing and themes of novel have been discussed. This will provide the literature review of the works referenced for the study. It contains the review of literature about both the theories along with one stance; the structural psyche of id, ego and superego by Sigmund Freud (1923), Frustration aggression theory of John Dollard et.al (1939) and Agneta Fischer stance of hate (2018).

Irfan Ajvazi (2021) expresses in Freud's id, ego and superego, that id is unconscious part of mind and works on pleasures without contemplation of outcomes. Ego deals with reality that helps to make decisions that are socially acceptable. 36 Superego is learnt from parents and culture. Superego causes extreme guilt and nervousness. Disproportion leads towards psychological issues. Id, ego and superego influence actions and decisions and have continuous contact. Lotter (2022) illustrates the chapter *On revenge: The other of forgiveness* from the book *Guilt, forgiveness and moral repair*, that revenge and forgiveness are two opposite human responses towards wrongdoings. Revenge gives short term satisfaction along with violence and conflicts. Revenge creates emotions like anger, wish for justice and need to restore one's honor. Forgiveness gives long term satisfaction; it is constructive and healing human response. It seeks harmony and avoids bitterness. It is morally elevated, cause of personal growth and societal harmony along with further harm but forgiveness provides emotional healing.

Elshout (2020) elaborates in *Real-life revenge may not effectively deter norm violations*, that people take revenge for emotional satisfaction rather than to stop future violations. Revenge actions may not stop people to break the norms. It may satisfy them temporally but it creates conflicts. Social norms are standards to resolve conflicts; they decide what is just and fair. People keep in mind these norms while taking revenge but sometimes they violate these norms. Revenge intensifies the conflicts rather than setting them peacefully. It is complex social occurrence. Revenge creates physical hostility or counterattack that breach social norms. It violates expectations of forgiveness, ignores social harmony, creates negative perception and contextual breach.

Messner (2022) describes the chapter *Anger, Hate, and Aggression*, from *The Routledge History of Emotions in the Modern World*. The chapter states that anger is initial emotional response but hate has deep rooted negative emotion. Anger changes into hate and intense hate becomes the cause of frustration. Anger has feelings of injustice and leads to the desire of revenge but hate has constant hostility which force for aggressive acts. They are interconnected and multifaceted that effect social, psychological and cultural factors.

Lariguet (2022) states in *Hatred and Anger: A conceptual analysis and practical effects. A tribute to Jonathan Haidt*, that anger is temporary response and situational emotion while hate is intense feelings of dislike or aversion towards a person or group. It has deep rooted bitterness and desire to harm while anger is emotional response caused by injustice, frustration and wrongdoings. Anger is positive because it motivates change while hatred is negative because it creates conflicts. Tuori (2022) elaborates the views of the chapter *Revenge violence and the civilizing narrative* from the book *Vindictory justice* and states that revenge is personal or collective act of punishment that is intended to restore justice. In the past people took revenge personally but in recent times, state is given the power to handle justice. Modern authoritative system gives emphasis on accountability and recovery rather than revenge. He favors restorative justice that focuses on repair of harm

caused by crime or conflict with help of cooperation. Transformative justice is in favor of many forms of changing conditions that prolong injustices. Societies are becoming less violent and legal system is based on justice is not totally true. It creates complexity in achieving true justice and highlights current challenges of harmony in society.

Bertsch et al. (2021) state in Abnormal processing of interpersonal cues during an aggressive encounter in women with borderline personality disorder: Neural and behavioral findings, that women with borderline personality disorder often have feelings of anger that leads towards aggressive behavior. Anger, depression and anxiety lead towards frustration. It is called frustration induced anger. It causes headache, muscle tension, digestion problem, social isolation and dissatisfaction with life.

Fischer (2024) states in chapter *Contempt and hate* from the book *Emotion theory: The Routledge comprehensive guide* that hate is fierce emotion having disgust and enmity. Hate is long lasting while anger is transient. Hate originates from the feelings of fear, menace and recognized injustice. It is driven by personal experiences, betrayal and extreme disappointment. It is revealed in thoughts, language and behavior and its aim is to demolish the target. It leads towards verbal and physical aggression. Prolong hate causes anxiety, tension and melancholy. It can alter one's awareness and makes it difficult to keep objectivity. Hate is not only personal; group identity, social customs and intergroup conflicts aggravate the feelings of hate. It is negative and harmful emotion for morally and ethically. Education, discussion and understanding can eliminate the intense emotions of hate.

Unraveling the web of desire and death: A Tale of psychic tension, revenge, lust, and murder in Shashi Deshpande's Novels *If I Die Today* and *Come Up and Be Dead*, by Bala et al. (2023), deals with severe themes like desire, revenge, and murder. It examines the psychological and emotional conflicts that urge the characters' actions and the effects of these themes on the main plot. Deep psychological conflicts start from the characters' desires and need for revenge. The article examines these themes create complex emotional views of the characters. The protagonists in these novels experience important inner conflicts connected to their desires and the need for revenge. These conflicts often result in harsh personal and connected endeavor. Characters' journey for revenge can increase acts of murder, dissatisfaction and uncontrolled desires. The tension between desire and revenge affects the characters' relationships and lead to isolation, betrayal, and tragedy.

*In Search of Lost Time: Phenomenology & Time, Psychoanalytic Theory in the Novels of Marcel Proust* by Wanneha (2022) explores the use of phenomenology and psychoanalytic theory to analyze Proust's works especially his famous novel series *In Search of Lost Time*. The unconscious desires, fears, and conflicts mold their behaviors and relationships. The characters struggle with desires, frustrations, time duration exposes the deeper psychological perceptions and the role of memory in shaping their identities. The characters attempt to understand themselves and their pasts through the disjointed nature of memory. The flow of time and the inconsistent nature of memory challenge the characters' view of reality, lead to existential thoughts. Proust's narrative style, his use of stream-of-consciousness, detailed descriptions, complexity of time, consciousness, deep psychological and philosophical analysis of his work and inner lives of characters are shown with application of Freud's theories.

Brogaard (2020) states in *Can there be a philosophy of hate?*, hate is complex emotion that aims someone's identity rather than their actions. It leads to violence, prejudice and social division.

Personal experiences, psychological conditions and social influences lead towards hate. It is different from anger. Hate is strong and durable negative emotion. Hate is not morally justified.

Paz et al. (2020) express *Hate speech: A systematized review*, that hatred is based on intolerance and it targets groups and individuals. It consists of features like race, religion, sexual identity or gender. It is usually provocative, biased and provoke violence against the target. Intense psychological and social impacts create the environment of fear and hate that ultimately lead towards violence. It is complicated due to its subjective nature. Victims of hate speech often suffer trauma, tension, nervousness and despondency. It causes social division and conflicts. Education, law enforcement against hate, media awareness, social support and research can minimize the effects of hate.

Fetchenhauer et al.(2020) elaborate in *Does betrayal aversion really guide trust decisions towards strangers?* that dislike of betrayal is not only emotional response but it is deep rooted moral institution. It is based on reality that we can develop trust and maintain it in all groups of society if we avoid betrayal. Trust is necessary for social cooperation and strong relationships. It does not belong to a specific culture but rather it is a common human quality. It arouses strong responses like anger, sadness and disappointment. It gives priority to fairness, honesty and loyalty. Betrayal is deep rooted aspect of human psychology. It plays an important role in trust decisions towards strangers.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The research methodology employed in this study aligns with the qualitative research paradigm. Data for research was collected through descriptive analysis. Both primary and secondary sources were utilized in this research process.

The primary source of data involved a comprehensive examination of the novel *The Lost Apothecary* (2021). This was accomplished through the close reading where the researcher closely engaged with the novel during the initial phase. In the subsequent phase, the relevant sections of the text, aligning with theoretical framework and research questions were identified and marked by the researcher. The third phase involved the detailed analysis of the selected passages of the text. This analysis was conducted using the method of descriptive analysis offering a nuanced understanding of the text.

In addition to the primary source, the secondary sources were incorporated to argument the data collection process. The secondary data consists of the works cited in the study such as online journals and articles, especially those related to the theories under discussion and the novel *The Lost Apothecary*. These supplementary sources provided additional context and support for research findings.

The study aims at exploring the causes and reasons of revenge sentiments in Sara Penner's *The Lost Apothecary* (2021). The feelings of anger and hate become the cause of revenge sentiments. The study is done through the application of Freud's psychoanalytical theory of structural theory of psyche (1923) to uncover physical and psychological effects on the mind of two main characters, Nella and Eliza.

The researcher has used the stances of John Dollard et al. hypothesis *Frustration aggression* (1939) and Fischer's stance of hate (2018) to unveil anger and hate as the causes of revenge. The analysis of the text informs that Nella experiences betrayal from her lover, Frederick. This incident

arouses her anger and disgust that converts into hatred and motivates her to take revenge. The application of John Dollard et al. anger stance (1939) working can be seen in the character of Nella and Eliza. Dollard in his work *Frustration aggression* (1939) talks about that when people are hindered from attaining their goal, they experience frustration which initiates aggressive behavior. This aggression can be direct or displaced. Social norms, cultural background and individual differences impact how frustration is manifested through aggression.

The application of Fischer's hate stance (2018) intensifies the frustration and anger of Nella and Eliza and converts it into strong hatred against the target. Fischer (2024) states that hate is fierce emotion having disgust and enmity. Hate is long lasting while anger is transient. Hate originates from the feelings of fear, menace and recognized injustice. It is driven by personal experiences, betrayal and extreme disappointment. It is revealed in thoughts, language and behavior and its aim is to demolish the target. Prolong hate causes anxiety, tension and melancholy. It can alter one's awareness and makes it difficult to keep objectivity. Hate is not only personal; group identity, social customs and intergroup conflicts aggravate the feelings of hate. It is negative and harmful emotion for morally and ethically.

## **Discussion and Analysis**

Sara Penner's *The Lost Apothecary*, expresses her intentions towards exploration of revenge and impacts of revenge sentiments on physical and mental health of her female characters. By portraying female characters she highlights corrupt legal system of 18<sup>th</sup> century that does not protect women in cases of rape and martial conflicts. In the form of narrative tale, she elaborates social injustice for women, causes and consequences of taking revenge for self-defense.

The betrayal of Frederick and tragic loss of her unborn child lead Nella Clavinger to open secret apothecary shop and her planning to take revenge. The physical and psychological effects on the lives of two main female characters have been analyzed in the light of *Freud's personality theory* (1923). John Dollard's anger theory *Frustration aggression theory* (1939) has been employed to explore anger and frustration that become the cause of revenge. Stance of Fischer (2018) sheds light on hate as the cause of revenge. The second section is based on discussion of findings and relates them with the research objectives and research questions. It further, relates the research findings with the existing studies, hence addressing the research gap.

The physical and psychological effects on female characters have been analyzed by the theory of Freud's personality theory's stance (1923). The actions and motivation of female characters are analyzed through Sigmund Freud's concept of id, ego, and superego in the context of taking revenge.

Nella is affected physically and psychologically without her conscious knowledge. Her careful planning and execution of poisons has secrecy in it and she maintains it. The balance between her desire to take revenge and her secrecy to evade authorities highlights the concept of ego. Ajvazi (2021) expresses ego as mediator between the unrealistic demands of id and external real world

Nella rules regarding her revenge motives are clear and vivid in her conversation. She clearly states that poison can be only used by women against men. It can't be used to kill other women. It shows her anger and hatred against men due to her personal tragedy. The psychological effects of id, ego and superego are visible on her personality. Her revenge sentiments are epitomized by

poison she makes and provides to those women who seek justice by cruel clutches of male society. She vows that she does not provide poison to hurt any woman. Jackson et al.(2019) state that revenge is influenced by cultural, psychological and social factors. It is done to restore justice and social order. Sara Penner's storytelling technique illustrates Nella's passion of revenge so vividly.

Lady Clarence comes to meet and receives the powder. She reveals that she needs it to kill her husband's lover, Miss Berkwell who is also cousin of her husband. Nella gets furious at her remarks and refuses to hand over it to Lady Clarence because she wants to end up only men from world. Elshout (2020) states that revenge actions may not stop people to break the norms. It may satisfy but it creates conflicts.

Throughout the whole narrative storytelling, the role of Eliza, twelve years old girl cannot be neglected who is crime partner of Nella. She also suffers from physical and psychological effects that are visible in her personality. Her curiosity, bravery, her desire to assist Nella and her fondness for power of poison shows her unconscious need for justice and revenge over her ambitions clearly demonstrates id of Sigmund Freud. Ajvazi (2021) states id as primitive part of mind representing the unconscious and instinctive desires.

It reflects darker morally complex nature of Eliza who is expressing her determination to take revenge, lack of remorse, intense emotions and personal conflicts. Poisonous eggs symbolize revenge, hidden danger, secrecy of apothecary shop, reflection of Eliza's thoughts, moral decline, transformation and duality of apothecary shop and overthrown women power. Eliza's intentions of revenge are so severe that she does not feel even regret. McCormack et al. (2020) express that young children do not feel regret as compared to adults. When they grow to be a teenager, they start to experience regret. Teenagers have developing abilities; they sometimes make risky decision in their life. When she comes to know about the constables in search of the murderer of Lord Clarence, she gets worry about the safety of Nella. She wants to save Nella from the grim situation of being hanged. Ajvazi et al. (2021) state that superego is the morality learned from parents and others. The analysis of John Dollard's anger hypothesis Frustration aggression (1939), and Fischer's stance of hate (2018) will elaborate anger and hate as the causes of revenge on two female characters Nella Clavinger and Eliza Fanning. Frustration is the hindrance against the desired achievement. Aggression is behavior that is developed to harm another person or object. It can be physical, verbal, direct or indirect. Both have cause and effect relationship.

The frustration of Nella is recorded in her register that leads her to aggressive act of killing men. Frederick's betrayal is the source of frustrated aggressive behavior. Frederick is one of the victims who become target of Nella's aggression through selling poison to Rissa. He becomes the target of indirect violence. Nella does not kill him as direct source instead she uses indirect source; Rissa for completion of her aggression in the form of murder. Aggression is unavoidable result of frustration. An internal frustration is produced by blocking the way of desired goal. Katja Bertsch et al. (2021) express that women with BPO ( mental health condition) often have feelings of frustration. It quickly changes into severe anger.

The protagonist, Nella experiences frustration due to Frederick's betrayal and loss of her unborn child at the hands of Frederick. Her frustration transforms her from healer to poisoner. Long lasting physical pain and deep emotional stress are also the cause of her frustration. Her work is risky and needs secrecy. It causes stress, anxiety and more frustration. She shows her violence in helping other female victims by supplying them poisonous ingredients to take revenge. After aggression she feels guilt, regret and moral conflict. She knows that she is indulged in morally



objectionable inner frustration. Her aggression is indirect because direct aggression is not possible due to fear of punishment and other boundaries and restraints.

Eliza Fanning, twelve years old girl who becomes the partner of Nella is frustrated by her limited freedom, power, and control on her life and flirt abuses of her employer towards her. Her desire to learn about herbs gives her power to overcome her helplessness. Her experience changes from innocent servant to more knowledgeable girl. This frustration leads her to seek help from Nella in killing Mr. Amwell with poison. Her frustration changes into aggression by the act of committing murder. Her aggression is also indirect.

The portrayal of Nella represents strength, courage and determination in face of adverse circumstances. Frederick betrays her after few months and becomes the cause of tragic loss of her unborn baby. She describes that she loves him so much that she even cannot imagine that she would develop strategies to kill her. Frederick becomes her first betrayal and her first victim of revenge. Her anger and hate force her to murder all nasty men of society. It spoils the real legacy of her mother's apothecary shop. It creates the feelings of anger, disgust, disappointment and injustice. She stands against the corrupt, flawed and unjust society that fails to safeguard women in cases of rape and marital crisis. Her anger and hatred on Frederick betrayal instigate her to take revenge. Paz et al. (2020) express that hatred is based on intolerance and it targets groups and individuals. It causes emotional and psychological effects, social division and conflicts.

Nella loves Frederick from the core of her heart. When she comes to know about his flirt nature she becomes shocked. All his promises of love, happiness and blessed house with children end in smoke. He is purely flirt and showers fake love towards Nella. He is nasty, licentious fellow who does not even care about his child. The corrupt face of 18th century society shows its darkest aspect of cruel, lewd and immoral. It grows the feelings of anger and hate against men that lead towards the desire to take revenge. Schweppe (2021) expresses that hate crimes are based on hostility and prejudice against special social group like race, religion and sexual orientation.

Messner (2022), states that anger is initial emotional response but hate has deep rooted negative emotion. Anger changes into hate and intense hate becomes the cause of frustration. Anger has feelings of injustice and leads to the desire of revenge but hate has constant hostility which force for aggressive acts. They are interconnected and multifaceted that affects social, psychological and cultural factors.

The pervasive theme of revenge runs like a meandering river throughout the novel that deep rooted in the very fabric of Nella's personality. She wants justice by revenge not by forgiveness. Lotter (2022), states that revenge and forgiveness are two opposite human responses towards wrongdoings. Revenge gives satisfaction along with further harm but forgiveness provides emotional healing. The tragic loss of her unborn child leaves a profound and enduring effect on her mind. She does not want to spare any lusty man from her clutches of her revenge designs. Tuori (2022) states that in the past people took revenge personally but in recent times state is given the power to handle justice. Society is becoming less violent and more civilized but it is not true. The desire of revenge still exists but expressed differently. Nella's tragic transformation into a killer can be seen as turning point in her character. Once a reputed healer, Nella now uses her own knowledge for a darker purpose, selling a well-disguised poison to desperate women who are tortured by callous male members. Fischer et al. (2018) state that hate is due to past grief and fear of unknown based on stereotypes and ignorance. Hate has psychological effects and is cause of social conflicts.

Lariguet (2022) expresses that hate is intense feelings of dislike or aversion. It has deep rooted bitterness and desire to harm while anger is emotional response caused by injustice, frustration and wrongdoings. Berit Brogaard (2020) states that hate is different from anger and dislike. Hate has more enduring and instinctive nature. Eliza's character can be aptly interpreted under the context of 18th century societal pressure and role and role of women in that era. Eliza is a young maid who develops deep rooted hatred for his master due to his wicked plans of flirtation. Inappropriate ways, unwanted advances and overall mistreatment excite the feelings of hatred. Her oppressed situation in house and lack of control over her life creates the feelings of hate and she seeks help from Nella, the apothecary.

The study results indicate that the research questions framed around the novel *The Lost Apothecary* (2021) are answered by using personality theory of Sigmund Freud (1923), Frustration aggression theory of John Dollard (1939) and hate stance of Fischer (2018). This work is unique due to combination of two theories and one stance into single research study on *The Lost Apothecary* (2021). Moreover, the applied theories have not been previously used in the analysis of the novel. On the other hand, Lotter (2022) illustrates the chapter *On revenge: The other of forgiveness* from the book *Guilt, forgiveness and moral repair*. The chapter expresses that revenge gives short term satisfaction that is evident in Nella's character. She feels solace after committing murder but also suffers from physical and psychological conflicts. Her anger for Frederick, her desire to take revenge from all nasty men to restore her honor is clearly seen in novel. All these aspects go parallel with novel while advantages of forgiveness go against the story of novel.

Ajvazi (2021) expresses in Sigmund Freud's id, ego and superego, that the unconscious part of mind develops Nella's desire of revenge. She unconsciously helps Rissa, the wife of Frederick to kill him by providing her poison. Ego restricts her but unconscious id gets victory over ego. Superego produces the feelings of guilt and nervousness. Due to the lack of balance between these three components Nella suffers psychological problems like shaking hands and stomach pain. Eliza's character also has unconscious drive that forces her anger and hatred to become the cause of her master's murder without accepting ego requirements and superego morality.

Elshout (2020) expresses in *Real-life revenge may not effectively deter norm violations*, about insightful study that elaborates revenge as emotional pleasure rather than to stop further breach. Nella seeks emotional relief from taking revenge but it does not satisfy her fully. She resolves to take revenge from all callous men of society by secretly killing them with poison. She does not follow social norms although she knows about their importance in society. Eliza, a twelve years old girl also willingly breaks the social norms to take revenge from her master for her wicked advancement towards her. The passion of revenge enlarges physical and psychological conflicts in Nella and Eliza personality. Nella develops hatred towards Frederick with no space for forgiveness. It is a complicated social phenomenon that creates negative ideas and lack of social unity in the mind of protagonist, Nella. All features go parallel to the overall theme of story.

Messner (2022) describes in *Anger, Hate, and Aggression* that Nella's anger starts from deception and betrayal of her lover, Frederick. It is her initial emotional response because it is based on injustice that she suffered. Her anger changes into extreme dislike and hostility due to severity of the loss of her unborn baby. The act of hostility excites her for aggressive action of murder of Frederick and other men. Eliza's anger is due to her master wicked advancement towards her. The story of Johanna, the ex-maid converts her anger into strong dislike and hate. The hatred stimulates her to take aggressive act of killing her master with help of poison provided by Nella from her secret apothecary shop. All features confirm the theme of novel.

Lariguet (2022) in *Hatred and Anger: A conceptual analysis and practical effects*. A tribute to Jonathan Haidt states that situational emotional response of Nella at the betrayal of her lover, Frederick causes anger due to situational injustice. Her anger motivates her for change but when that anger converts into intense hate it creates a desire to take revenge from Frederick and all men of society. The hatred becomes the cause of complex conflicts. Eliza's anger and then her intense hatred towards her master develop strong conflicts in her mind that excites her for killing act of her master. All features favor the novel.

Tuori (2022) elaborates the views of chapter *Revenge violence and the civilizing narrative*, from the book *Vindictory justice*. It states revenge as personal or collective act of punishment. Nella decides to take revenge from all nasty men by creating secret poison apothecary shop behind the cupboard wall. Eliza Fanning becomes her crime partner when she contacts Nella on behalf of her mistress to purchase poison to kill her master. Nella action of revenge without consideration of legal laws shows her personal revenge. Legal system is not without any bias in her era, that's why Nella decides to take revenge by herself. Personal revenge and defective legal system go parallel to novel while restorative and transformative justice goes against the novel.

Bertsch et al. (2021) state views in *Abnormal processing of interpersonal cues during an aggressive encounter in women with borderline personality disorder: Neural and behavioral findings*. They elaborate that Nella suffers from anger induced frustration (BPD borderline personality disorder), the betrayal of Frederick and loss of her unborn child create feelings of anger that leads her towards aggressive behavior. Anger, stress and depression become the cause of frustration for Nella. Headache, muscle pain, social loneliness and unhappiness in life can be seen in the personality of Nella.

Fischer (2024) states in chapter *Contempt and hate* from the book *Emotion theory: The Routledge comprehensive guide* that hate is a strong emotion. Nella's past experiences create feelings of anger. That anger converts into hate due to extreme disappointment betrayal and stress on past experiences. Anger is temporary while hate is permanent emotion. Hate starts from fear of self-protection, injustice and threats of security. Her hate is evident from her language and thoughts. She wants to destroy her hate target, her lover Frederick. It leads her towards physical aggression and she plans secretly to kill Frederick and all callous men of society with use of herbal poisonous powders. She suffers anxiety, tension and sadness. She becomes so severe that she suffers prejudice in kill all cruel male members of society. Her hate does not remain personal but based on group identity. She wants to facilitate women of society and has harsh hate for cruel men of society. Social circumstances of 18th century urge her towards hate. It is totally morally negative emotion.

Fetchenhauer et al. (2020) elaborate in *Does betrayal aversion really guide trust decisions towards strangers? successfully state that dislike for betrayal is emotional and moral*. Nella's betrayal at the hands of Frederick is emotional and moral because it arouses the feelings of deep rooted hatred about wrong moral conduct of her lover Frederick. It spoils the image, strong relationships and social cooperation. Trust is precious moral value to run the society smoothly in all the cultures. Frederick violates the moral value of trust by betrayal that produces the feelings of anger, sadness and disappointment. He was a stranger for Nella but she trusts on his moral values. It shakes Nella's belief on trust and moral values against strangers. Eliza works as a maid in Mr. Amwell's house; he shakes her trust by his wicked advancements towards her. It spoils her trust decision moral value against her master who was stranger for her.

Paz et al. (2020) express in Hate speech: A systematized review successfully that hatred aims to harm groups and individuals. Nella's revenge is individual as well as based on male members of community. Sexual identity and gender issues provoke revenge sentiments. Nella's hatred towards Frederick provokes her to involve in violence against him and the whole men. Her desire to take revenge is based on her inner feelings of hatred that's why it is biased. She suffers trauma, conflicts, anxiety, tension and nervousness and these symptoms can be seen clearly in her personality. Eliza also exhibits her desire of revenge that is based on gender identity. Her subjective feelings cause conflicts and social division. These aspects go parallel to the whole scenario but education, social media, law agencies, social support and research role go against the main stream of the story because Nella does not follow the legal laws while taking revenge and does not want support from any one.

Brogaard (2020) states in Can there be a philosophy of hate? That negative emotion of hate arouses against Frederick as his identity as a male member of society. Her hate directs her towards brutality, bias and social division. Her personal experiences of betrayal, psychological state after betrayal and social influences directs her towards intense hate. It is different from anger because anger is momentary. Her emotion of hate moves her towards sentiments of revenge through poison that's why they are not morally justified. Eliza's intensity of hate force her to commit murder of her master without thinking about moral restrains.

## **Conclusion**

The purpose of this study is to investigate and bring forth the physical and psychological impacts on the psyche of female characters due to feelings of anger and hate that excite them to execute revenge strategies. The study is done through the application of Freud's psychoanalytical theory of *structural theory of psyche* (1923) to uncover physical and psychological effects on the mind of two main characters, Nella and Eliza. The researcher has used the stances of John Dollard et al. hypothesis *Frustration aggression* (1939) and Fischer's stance of hate (2018) to unveil anger and hate as the causes of revenge sentiments. The analysis of the text informs that Nella experiences betrayal from her lover, Frederick and Eliza undergoes maltreatment at the hands of her master, Mr. Amwell. These incidents arouse their anger and disgust that convert into hatred and motivates them to take revenge.

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