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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**UNIQUE TECHNIQUE OF WILLIAM FAULKNER'S THE SOUND AND THE FURY.**

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**Abstract**

The article explains the most outstanding feature of William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* in which the author has used four different points of view in the presentation of the fall of the Compson family in particular and the desperation and hopelessness of the individuals in general. The significance of the novel has been established on the skilful use of the technique of 'The Stream of Consciousness' and on the treatment of time. Time has been used by the author as a device and a means to get the story told.

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William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* had been published in 1929 and was recognized to be one of the great novels of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The novel narrates the story of an aristocratic southern family known as the Compsons and it details how the Compson family has fallen into decay and dissolution which dramatizes the universal cyclical rhythm of rising and falling, birth and death, from which no natural object can escape. The family, over the course of the 30 years in the novel, suffers a financial ruin that has forced them to sell parts of their once proud estate. In addition to that financial ruin, the family has lost its religious faith and the respect of people in their town. Meanwhile, the novel heightens the desperation and hopelessness of the individuals that appear distinctly in the heart of the novels when the three brothers of the Compson mourn the loss of their sister, Caddy; the sexuality of their sister and her early pregnancy associated with her quick and unhappy marriage have been recalled by the three brothers in different perspectives.

Faulkner has designed his book into four distinct sections; the first section is narrated through the perspective of the idiot mind of Benjy Compson in which Benjy appears to be a source of shame to the family due to his diminished mental capacity. The action of the first section takes place on Benjy's 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April in the year of 1929 whereas Benjy and a Negro servant Luster move around the Compson land. Benjy recalls memories belong to him and the Compson family's past; his memories are not in chronological order and are recognized to be always very sudden. Benjy gives an account to the memories of Caddy as she played a huge part in his life as well as he recalls many events such as the death of his brother Quentin, the day when his mother had changed his name from its original one of Maury to Benjamin feeling ashamed from the side of his mother that an idiot one like him would bear the name of the family, and he recalls also the death of the Compson grandmother in 1898.

In the second section of the novel, Faulkner retells the story of Caddy from another view. It is the section of the oldest child of the Compson family, Quentin. The time of the section is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June in the year of 1910 and this day probably ends with Quentin's suicide. Quentin was still unable to forget the horror of Caddy's sin and he at that day recalls his attempt to protect Caddy from all types of experiences. Caddy married her fiancé Herbert Head who

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was the president of a bank but soon after wedding, the latter threw her out of the house as he discovered that she was already pregnant. Quentin jumps into the river and drowns with the two six –pound flat irons that he wrapped around his body.

The third section in the novel is told in the simplest prose of the perspective of the last son of the Compson family , Jason which takes place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April , 1928. Though Faulkner has attempted to records the simplest thoughts of an evil character represented by Jason , but the clearest account of the family has been expressed ; Faulkner views the world in general and the family's dissolution in particular in terms of the pretty , sadistic character of Jason .

The forth section is on Easter Sunday on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April of the year 1928 and is told , unlike the three previous sections , in the third person by the author ; it should be noted that the central figure of this section is Dilsey, the Negro cook , who attempts to bring some order out of all the sound and fury of the Compsons .Faulkner presents Dilsey in terms of a character who is not searching for a soul as she stands to be the soul in itself and more Faulkner treats her as the conscious human who accepts the limitations of the self . In addition to the largest view created by the author in his final section , Faulkner also offers here the inter- relationships between the characters more objectively ; meanwhile, he places his Negro character in the manner that she appears less false pride , less false idealism , and more seasoned discipline in the human relationships.

The title of the novel is borrowed from Macbeth's famous soliloquy of act 5, scene 5 by William Shakespeare. The non linear structure of Faulkner's book makes any true synopsis of it difficult. The novel requires a close reading as the four sections of it narrate the same episodes but from different points of view and these views need to be examined carefully since the narrators are all unreliable and their views seem not to be trustworthy all the times. Faulkner had made full use in this book to a technique known as ' The stream of conscious ' which previously used in English by James Joyce and Virginia Woolf. The stream of conscious allows the author to write as though he is inside the mind of his characters and Faulkner has showed the most successful and outstanding use of it and in this regard it is significant to note that this technique has been regarded a significant development of the twentieth century in the psychology of free association.

Faulkner has treated time in his novel as a device and a means to get his story told and this unique technique makes the novel appear apparently chaotic but by examining the concepts of time for the three brothers , some of the difficulty with motivation disappears. For Benjy , the concept of time doesn't exist and he doesn't consider the passing of time or the continuity of events ; he cannot distinguish past from the present while Quentin is obsessed with time . Quentin , like his father, thinks of time as he thinks of everything else but meanwhile he wants to escape time as he finds that passing time will blunt his intense pain over his sister ; thus , he decides to kill himself to forget or escape time .Jason , like Quentin, is obsessed with time but in a different way ; Jason tries to capture time to achieve his desires . There is always an attempt from Jason to hoard time as he does with money but he is always rushed and a little too late.

It is just in the final section , Dilsey's section, that Faulkner starts to treat the concept of time in the manner which appears to be in the real contrast to the concepts of time of the three Compson sons. Dilsey is neither obsessed with time nor insensible of it ; she is aware of time in the correct way . She understands time in its several senses in which she deals with the practical and the abstract senses of the time at same time ; Dilsey's concept of time has been used to serve at the same scale the structure and the theme and her perception of time has been served also to mirror the proper historical perspective of the Compson family.

It is significant to note also that one of the most outstanding aspects of the novel is its ultimate ambiguity ; it has been recognized to be a novel of implication rather than of explanation and a novel of concrete dramatization rather than of abstract analysis. In addition to Faulkner's use of symbolic actions and juxtapositions, he also skillfully had made use of figurative language in his narrative style of the novel . In this respect , Faulkner has varied his style in each section in the manner that enabled him to fit that style with the type of the character that he created for each section.

Faulkner has basically used simple words and sentences in Benjy's section because it is natural that an idiot character would utter no difficult words or sentences while the author's style changes drastically in Quentin's section ; there are more complex vocabulary and sentences which fit the complex and intricate mind of Quentin . Stylistically , Faulkner has been able to present that apparent difference between Benjy and Quentin in which

Benjy's main interest is in images and impressions while Quentin's main interest is in complex and difficult ideas. Then, Faulkner turns to change his style again in Jason's section with a rapid pace that fits the character of Jason who has not troubled with the intricacies of life and who has a mind recognized to be a monomaniac. Finally, Faulkner comes to adjust his style that he followed in the three previous sections with a style appears to be quiet dignified and recognized to have a strong sense of control and order which cope with the character of Dilsey.

### Conclusion:-

*The Sound and the Fury* is an important contribution to the permanent literature of fiction and Faulkner, whether in writing the tragedy of the fall of a southern family or in presenting the collapse of a provincial aristocracy in a final debacle of sanity, recklessness, and psychological perversion, has all the spacious proportions of Greek art. The novel is among the three or four American prose fiction which bear serious comparison with the achievements of the twentieth – century literature whereas the impact of tragedy has been felt and sustained. The author's vision and technique are in complete harmony and through that significant vision and technique, Faulkner has made an outstanding impact on portraying a radical image of man against the wall. The author of this tragedy has varied in his style to be appropriate to his character of each section in particular and to be appropriate to the whole themes of his book in general.

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