

Representation of Domestic and Gender Violence: A Study of Social Learning on Behind Closed Doors by B.A Paris

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ABSTRACT: The novel *Behind Closed Doors* by B.A. Paris appears to be a domestic thriller. It highlights the issue of domestic violence, which is found in every single culture. Irrespective of its history amidst all the world and has existed for many years in our society. Domestic violence is not only violence against women, it can also be violence against kids, siblings, and parents; and victims are being deprived of their basic rights. The ambition of this study on *Behind Closed Doors* is to divulge into the instances of domestic violence on women and child imitation, and impacts of parents' behavior on a child. Consequently, to determine the solution to these problems, the researcher has applied Albert Bandura's *Social Learning Theory* and has analyzed the whole text of the novel by keeping in mind all the four steps of his theory and finds textual evidence from the novel. Exploring the aspects which give us information on the manners of the protagonist by examining his character development and disclose how he becomes a violent person and how he learns specific behavior and the negative effects of his father's behavior on him which leads him to abuse his mother and wife. In this descriptive study, the qualitative method has been used for analysis. Herein, the researcher has pinpointed the outcomes of imitated behavior and its reinforcement to subjugate the intimate partner.

Key words: Domestic Violence, imitation, social learning, behavior, abuse.

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Domestic violence is the mistreatment of a partner to control him/her emotionally, physically, verbally, sexually, and psychologically. The victims who have suffered from domestic violence or are still suffering from it are most commonly all women (Grace 41). Approximately, one out of four women is a victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence occurs mostly because of the presence of gender inequality. In most male-dominated societies, men find themselves superior to women and try to control them, harm them, threaten them, and isolate them which means that men prevent women from meeting and talking to other people until they get permission from their spouses. Men also impose restrictions on women and emotionally blackmail them. Domestic violence is not only the violence against the partner, but it can also be the violence against kids, siblings, and parents. It is that crime that is not reported much. Most of the women, who are sufferers of domestic abuse are well-educated, proficient, and occupy higher positions in different sectors, but these women do not have any control in their homes rather they are controlled by their partners (Walker, p. 00?).

Domestic violence is not a new phenomenon, it is a social issue that has an irregular history. In 1920, wife-beating was considered against the law in all states of the United States. Not much attention was given to violence against women, however, modern studies brought domestic violence to the attention of literary theorists, feminists, and the general public after the 1970s. Specifically, the second wave of feminism was about women's rights and their treatment by their husbands. The definition of *Family Violence* was first used in Section 4 of the Family Law Act 1975. The term domestic violence itself was first introduced in the early 1990. Domestic violence may be classified and understood by considering various approaches. As stated in 2006 by the United Nation women are not secured in any vicinity of the sector, country, and culture.

The prime reasons behind this research are the elements of domestic violence that have not been discussed through the aspect of social behavior in the analysis of the novel *Behind Closed Doors*. Domestic violence is one of the main issues in our modern society nowadays. For this purpose, it is necessary to investigate domestic violence in the literature of the modern era because literature is always representative of society. Therefore, the researcher explains domestic violence by using the *Social Learning Theory*. It is the theory in psychology that thoroughly explains the abuse that a child learns from his parents. A boy

learns marital violence by observing the way his father tortures his mother during the boy's childhood.

Domestic violence is there in our society and women are not treated equally. Women are considered inferior to men. And are not given their rights. They are suffering from domestic violence and are threatened or abused by their partners. It is a very common issue of our society and has existed in our society for many years. Concerning this problem, this study inspects the solution to this serious problem of our society that is domestic violence. We do this by discussing and studying the *Social Learning Theory*.

This study is significant because the cases of domestic violence are increasing gradually in society which is also depicted in the novel. The researcher has studied different literary works, based on imitated social behavior which leads a person to be violent. This study will help readers in understanding the scenario of imitated behavior and its reinforcement to oppress intimate partners. This paper has the following two research objections: To highlight instances of domestic violence in the novel *Behind Closed Doors* by B. A. Paris. To indicate the character development of Jack Angel through *Social Learning Theory*. The research questions that this paper seeks to address are: How has the author portrayed the instances of domestic violence on women in the novel behind closed doors? How does *Social Learning Theory* explain the character development of Jack Angel? And there are some delimitations to this research. The researcher has focused only on the analysis of the novel *Behind Closed Doors* by B. A. Paris in terms of domestic violence. Instances of domestic violence have been sought and extracted from the text; these instances have been analyzed through the theoretical lens of *Social Learning Theory*.

The following part of the research focuses on several studies on domestic violence in literature and how women suffer from domestic violence in our world. Domestic violence is commonly found in every culture regardless of its history across all the world (Jackson 216). Violence against women has been there for such a long time but it was not given any importance before the 19th century. After the 19th century, many authors like Judith L. Herman, poets like Robert Browning, and novelists like Charles Dickens in his novel *Oliver Twist* and Anne Bronte in her novel *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* have discussed domestic violence extensively.

Hubbard (1111: 00) defined domestic violence as emotional, physical, psychological, and sexual abuse of one's partner. Abuse involves threats, harm, harassment, and control. In English literature, for domestic violence, battered and abused are two substitutable words (McCue 3). Domestic violence can also be known as spouse abuse, domestic abuse, and marital violence. McCue in her book *Domestic violence: A Reference Handbook*, depicted domestic violence with different perspectives. In this handbook, domestic violence has been discussed with different references of books, articles, and other researchers' works (xi).

For explaining aggressive and violent behavior, *Social Learning Theory* has been used by researchers from different eras (Akers xxi). The Psychological implementation involves the exercising of vicarious, representative along with self-regulatory practices. Which plays an important part in the mental development of the human as highlighted in the *Social Learning Theory* presented by Albert Bandura. It entails the certainty of influence which individuals inspire in one another and this behaviour is notably recorded through regular observation or immediate impact in a direct social setting. Cognitive, behavioural, and environmental features of human behaviour, as suggested by Social Learning Theory, are a few of the different factors existing as a continuous reciprocal interaction. Humans do not only respond to the external environment; they also react according to the situation. In other words, *Social Learning Theory* suggests that in certain circumstances people will react similarly and will show what they have learned (Bandura 12-13).

Mihalic and Delbert (0000) stated that in literature, *Social Learning Theory* is one of the descriptive aspects of marital violence. Generally, parents are the model familial structure for the child and it takes part in the development of the child's personality. The child who becomes violent in his adulthood is commonly influenced by a role model, as stated in the *Social Learning Theory* (Bandura). The main cause which leads to violence is a sense of powerlessness, stigma, and lack of trust in others (Finkelhor et al.). Marital violence can also be adopted because of exposure to the outer world (Hotaling et al. 343).

Straus and Gelles have studied that those children who had undergone violence (punishment) from their parents in childhood would have higher chances of marital violence. They have also stated that those children,

who observed violence being exercised on one of their parents in their childhood, are three times more violent than those who have not experienced violence in childhood (Fantuzzo et al. 120).

Domestic violence takes place when one partner attempts to control the behaviour of his or her spouse (Economics 3). When a person has an influential personality, it leads the person to dominate his spouse. Mostly, the dominating partner is the husband because he is the leader of a family in our society.

Anderson and Kras were of the view that a child's exposure to violence at home results in imitation and adoption of that situation or instance, perchance it would trigger the child and he might become a violent person in the future (108). Hines & Saudino have followed the viewpoint of Bandura in *Social Learning Theory* that aggressiveness in marital relationships has mainly resulted from observing parental violence. Exposure to domestic violence may affect the psychology of a child and it also causes some serious health issues. The child, who witnessed violent behaviour, is possible to consider violent behaviour as an appropriate reaction to his or her spouse. The individual adopts the emotions and the types of relationships in their life which they have observed in their family (99-124).

Komorowski in her study has discussed domestic violence in the literature of Victorian times. She has pointed out the problems of domestic violence by Robert Browning's poem *Porphyria's Lover* and Emily Bronte's novel *Wuthering Heights*. Both Bronte and Browning have portrayed the image of domestic abuse which women face in their homes. These two have highlighted the issues of domestic violence and have discovered that women and children want safety. They have exposed the horrifying aspects of those men who have committed violence (1-110).

Baloria has found the theme of domestic violence in Stephen King's novel *Rose Madder*, which is the story of a couple, Rosie Daniel, and Norman Daniel. The researcher has pointed out how a sweet and outstanding lady like Rosie suffered from domestic violence. Her husband Norman, who was a police officer, was good at his job. He did not have any control over his anger and often went beyond the limits. He used to torture her and beat her, even when she was pregnant, which resulted in a miscarriage. He was also accused of assaulting another

woman whose name was Wandy Yarrow. The researcher has stated that “marriages have not been a cup of tea for everyone” (770). Not all marriages are perfect, some are the biggest mistakes of one’s life, Rosie also got into the wrong marriage and she suffered a lot.

ZabihZadeh et al. (year) have analyzed in their study on domestic violence in a novel *The Patience Stone* by Atiq Rahimi and have studied the causes of domestic violence on Afghan women. The researchers’ focal point was the consistent suffering of Afghan women. They suffered from several types of domestic violence. There were various types of restrictions imposed upon women in Afghanistan. Their liberty had been restrained to the point where they were left incapable of breaking cultural norms and traditions. They considered women as weak and vulnerable. The researchers have discussed the emotional abuse that the protagonist faced before and after marriage. She was not even allowed to meet her friends. The heroine and her mother experienced physical abuse by her father, only because of their conventional gender roles.

Majhi in his literary work has shown an image of domestic violence by the comparative study of Meena Kandasamy’s autobiographical novel *When I hit you* and John Osborne's play *Look Back in Anger*. In both literary works, women suffered from domestic violence but the cases are different. Meena Kandasamy got married to a professor. She wanted to be a writer and had some hope for brilliant forthcoming but turned out to be the victim of domestic violence. Her husband started controlling her and abused her physically and verbally, but she fought against her husband's cruelty, instead of giving up. Whereas, in John Osborne’s play, the woman whose name is Alison is the sufferer of domestic violence because of class differences. Her husband abused her verbally. He tortured her psychologically, and due to this constant psychological torture she suffered from mental illness and did not fight back. Domestic violence is not only limited to women of the upper class or lower-class, but any woman can also be a victim of it (8y-11y). UN Secretary Kofi Annan said violence against women knows no geographical, cultural, or economic limits. It is a shameful act among all human rights violations (Annan). Generally, this happens to depend upon the social norms, family culture, and individual experiences. As Bandura has suggested in *Social Learning Theory* that there are higher chances of violence if someone has observed such behaviour closely (135).

In a psychoanalytic reading *Behind Closed Doors* by B. A. Paris, Jarrar has found sufficient elements to suggest the text's hidden agenda. She identified the psychic phenomena by applying Freud's psychoanalytic theory and other psychologists' theories of masochism and sadism. In her paper, she analyzed the characteristics of the psychopathic personality of the protagonist. Jarrar did not explain domestic violence in her studies so, the researcher will explore domestic violence and the effect of imitated behaviour on a person's psyche in this research paper. A lot of researchers have worked on the novel *Behind Closed Doors* by B. A. Paris by taking different variables (222-224).

However, research on domestic violence has not been conducted yet. Domestic violence affects the development of a child's personality and illustrates how the behavior shown by the parents molds the child's future. The ill personality growth of a child is one of the main concerns of our society. Therefore, the researcher has inspected the aspects of domestic violence that have been presented in the novel *Behind Closed Doors* by observing his father in his childhood. Furthermore, they stimulate behavioural influences in their child's future marital life. So, the researcher chose this topic for her research that focuses on highlighting how a child imitates domestic violence.

The research methodology used in this article is qualitative. In qualitative research, a natural phenomenon is studied in the context of a text and signifies social factors' practices in certain events (Denzin & Lincoln 2). It is descriptive in nature. Descriptive research does not answer the questions which are when, how, and why the elements are under study, but it only answers the questions regarding what those elements are (Shields and Rangarajan). The researcher plays a major role in qualitative research because the researcher is the one who collects and analyses data. Qualitative research gathers non-numerical data for the investigation of a text. It is based on personal understanding, where the goal of the research is not to quantify the data instead it clarifies and identifies the data (Gay, et al. 465). The focus is on the analysis of the whole text through a close reading of the novel to bring out the elements of domestic violence and the situations which show how the child imitates his father by applying Bandura's theory of Social Learning. Apart from the close reading of the novel *Behind Closed Doors*, the researcher has also gone through some other relevant authentic sources like journals and articles to collect data related to her material. The researcher has used some relevant quotations from the novel.

The theoretical framework of *Social Learning Theory* by Albert Bandura is applied to the novel *Behind Closed Doors*. *Social Learning Theory* has described how social factors affect a child's behaviour by observing his surroundings. This theory has put forward the effects of environmental factors on the psyche of the character. This can be shown in the protagonist of the novel as to how he had observed violent behaviour in his life. This theory is helping the researcher to arrive at the roots of psychological problems in human behaviour. In shaping the behaviour of a person, social learning plays a vital role. If a person has observed something negative, he or she is probably inclined to act according to a certain situation and will have higher chances to adapt it as his or her personality trait.

The researcher has studied the behaviour of the protagonist in the context of *Social Learning Theory*. This theory involves the four processes which are stated as observational learning: attention, retention, motor reproduction, and motivation. The researcher has applied this theory because of these four notions.

- **Attention:** The first one is called attention and it means that a person has noticed detrimental incidents from his surroundings or people who are close to him or her during upbringing.
- **Retention:** This is the second step and retention means that a person stores the information and then looks back to certain consequences, whatever has been perceived by him or her in the past.
- **Motor Reproduction:** The third step which is known as motor reproduction consists of converting symbolic depictions into suitable moves. According to Bandura, motor reproduction is attained especially by observing one's response and then performs it later, on the basis of its result. It then emulates according to it, based on the model's behavior
- **Motivation:** The last notion is called motivation. It is the behaviour in which a person learns from his or her role model or takes as a motivation by identifying ethics, mood, and observed action. The motivation to repeat the behaviour comes from the role model and from the personal experience.

In this novel, the character recalls everything that he has observed at his home and would reinforce his spouse. This theory has demonstrated that children do not learn only through reinforcement but also through witnessing his or her role model in life.

The word domestic is associated with family and its relations and with something that is done at home within the family and something related to the family.

The word violence means abuse. It can be of any kind including physical, emotional, or psychological. When the relationship between a couple is not ideal and they do not respect each other, it leads to violence, and as it is violence in the family that characterizes it as domestic violence. An ideal relationship is the one where each person in the relationship respects the other. However, in the novel *Behind Closed Doors*, an ideal relationship does not exist.

The novel *Behind Closed Doors* is about domestic life. It is a story of a couple Grace and Jack, and Millie who is the sister of Grace. The story of the novel spins around these three characters and about the ways Jack as a child learns about domestic violence.

The researcher has focused on the instances of domestic violence by focusing on the *Social Learning Theory*. According to *Social Learning Theory*, there are four steps which are attention, retention, motor reproduction, and motivation. The researcher has discussed each step one by one and finds out the instances in which he has learned about violence and how his mother and his wife Grace go through domestic violence.

Attention is when you learn something by looking around you in your society. A child usually learns things and acquire certain behaviour from his family and from his surroundings. A Child is more probable to adopt the negative behaviour. Jack during his childhood paid much attention to his father's actions. He would notice everything that his father did and by that, he caught a glimpse of what uncontrollable violence is from his father. The father had been a violent person towards the mother, in Jack's childhood. "the father dragged her down to the cellar to be locked in with the rats" (Paris 80).

Jack experiences domestic violence at his home. His father is an aggressive person, so he fears his father. His father used to abuse his

mother every day eventually, becoming his routine. Moreover, Jack sees his father torturing his mother every day. His father punishes his wife when she commits a mistake. It starts giving him pleasure and from his father, he learns that violence is such a pleasurable thing.

Jack inherently registers ways of incurring punishment from his father's behavior and practice them upon his wife Grace. And so, after his marriage, he starts giving Grace some difficult tasks to accomplish, that she commits some mistake and he gets a chance to punish her so he locks her in the cellar. Grace says that "He began setting me tasks he knew I would fail" (Paris 170). He is habitual to say something in front of his friend against her so that she commits a mistake. Once Jack states that Grace has stitched an amazing dress but, she has never stitched a dress. She does not even have access to things that are needed for stitching while she is really wearing a curtain at that time. Once he imposes a menu on her and he makes sure that it is as complicated for Grace as possible. Even though Grace is an outstanding cook but, under pressure, she makes mistakes and Jack locks her in the cellar.

Jack has seen his mother begging his father for mercy but he never listens to her and abuses her. When his father appoints him to keep an eye upon his mother, she begs in front of Jack for mercy too. But like his father, he never listens to her. Jack loves it when Grace begs before him wanting him to allow her to meet her sister. Her cries and unhappiness make Jack glad, "I do so love it when you beg" (Paris 167).

From his father, he learns that husbands have authority. They can control the life of their wives. The idea of finding a woman with some weakness also comes from his father. Since one can easily control somebody who has some weakness, the father tortured the mother because he knew that she is helpless, and she could not do anything to save herself and her son from his wrath. When Jack and Grace meet, he finds that she has a weakness in her sister Millie for whom she can do anything to save from danger. Millie has down-syndrome, she is weak and helpless, and unable to protect herself. He assumes that she cannot express what is happening around her and will not fight back. He can do whatever he wants to do with her. He informs Grace of his intention of marrying her was not love for her but for the pleasure he would obtain from exploiting her and Millie's weakness. He says that "I need you to be my wife, but in name only. You are not my reward, Grace, Millie is" (Paris 83).

He learns from his father how to build a home like a cage. He wants others to obey him as his father wanted. The idea of how to imprison your wife locked up in the cellar and the idea of building a cellar also comes from his father.

Retention means continuing the hold of something that has happened in the past. In the novel, whatsoever Jack has seen and the behaviour he has retained from his father is retention. He performs it when he is grown up. Jack has witnessed domestic violence in his family during childhood. He notices each and everything. When he is all grown up, he remembers everything that has happened in the past, not forgetting even a single memory of his past. He remembers how his father had tortured his mother. She used to shout when he would beat her. He starts loving that and he remembers it when his father left him in charge of his mother. She tries to escape but he realizes that if she leaves the house, he will not be able to hear the screaming sound again so he hits her and she starts screaming. Then he hits her again and again because he starts cherishing the screaming sound and ends up killing her. When he is all grown up, he starts enjoying all the violence and craves it. He wants someone in his life who only belongs to him and whom he can control. Since he loves the sound of screaming after marrying Grace, he locks her in the cellar and when she screams, he says that “You don’t know how much it excites me” (Paris 153). This shows that it gives him pleasure, and the sound of screaming is delightful music to his ears.

Jack’s ambition is to use violence through fear and pressure. He loves the smell of fear, to him, it is like an alluring perfume. He states that “Hmm, I do so love the smell of fear” (Paris 125). As he observes in his childhood that his mother is unable to fight back, now when he gets older, he needs someone who is helpless as his mother. Grace was a strong and independent working woman before marriage. Jack knows that Grace is not going to be a strong woman anymore after marriage and she is going to be in his control because of Millie. So, he presents himself as a nice person to her before marriage. After the marriage, he starts showing his true colours. When she wants to be with her sister on their wedding night because she is in hospital, he asks her to choose between him and her sister Millie. She chooses him. When they go to Thailand for their honeymoon, he reveals his biggest reality: why he wanted to marry Grace. He says that now you only belong to me and you have given your soul to me and now you cannot escape. He states that “Do you realize that what you’ve done, do you realize that you’ve sold

your soul to me? And Millie's, for that matter" (Paris 71). When she tries to escape from him, she gets punished. He does not allow her to meet Millie. He threatens her if she repeats it. He does not pay Millie's fee and sends her to an Asylum. He once says to her that if you keep on trying to escape. He will lock her in the cellar and he enjoys it.

During childhood, he often sees his mother injured and now when he is all grown up, he remembers everything. He often found his mother beautiful with bruises and blood on her face. The main reason for becoming a lawyer with a specialization in cases of domestic violence is because he enjoys hearing the stories of domestic violence. He likes to see the battered women and their bruises. When he allows Grace to paint, he declares that she is going to paint only that he asks her to paint. He gives her the picture of his client who is badly injured with her nose cracked and a cut lip, and a black eye with minute detail.

Jack has seen in childhood that they have a cellar in their basement where his father locked his mother with rats. He remembers that cellar. So, when he finds a girl who is suitable for him, he builds his house with the same cellar in his basement and paints it red. Basically, he has built this for Millie hangs there some paintings which he has forced Grace to paint. Those paintings are horrifying and are not less than the rats as these are of battered women. He has a strong alarm system in his house. He tells her that he is going to hide Millie and her from the people when Millie shifts in with them. When they are on their honeymoon, he locks Grace in the hotel room when she tries to escape. Once they come back home, she again tries to run off. He locks Grace in the bedroom. He deprives her of everything and after that, he starts locking her in the cellar. In case she commits some mistake, he instills fear in her by locking her in that cellar and reminds her that Millie is going to be more scared when she will be in the cellar. In comparison, Jack does not like physical violence. He enjoys psychological violence and is determined to instill fear through verbal communication and tortures her mentally and emotionally.

Motor Reproduction is the performance of those actions that a child sees. Firstly, he registers that behaviour in his mind as a model and follows that practically but the action depends upon the ability. If the child has learned that behaviour completely, he makes changes in it according to his own ability and tries to practice and observe its outcomes in the surroundings. For this purpose, he tries to observe and then models it and

makes adjustments according to that. Jack imitates the behaviour of his father and then he follows it practically but he does not imitate it completely. He makes some trail, he tries to improve his behaviour according to his environment. His temperament is exactly like his father. It is in his genes. He is influenced both by his genes and the environment. Jack learns to manipulate others by his experience and through his environment. He learns from a society that your impression should be good before people. He always presents himself as a nice person to impress others. Jack claims that “Many women don’t have anybody to turn to and are scared they won’t be believed” (Paris 16). Jack says this while talking to Diane, and tries to make them believe that he is a supporter of women. He tries to prove that he really cares about these women, he always wants to help the helpless women but in reality, he wants to listen to the heart-wrenching stories of women because it is a cherishing moment for him. In front of people, he is a successful and famous lawyer who never loses any case. He is a good friend and a perfect husband. He has a perfect house so people think that she is living a perfect life. But in reality, Grace is living like a prisoner; she does not get food regularly. She is not even allowed to choose anything for herself, not even nice clothes. She gets nice clothes when she has to go outside. He never discloses his real personality to people around him.

Jack wants to hide away his wife as a prisoner, though to fool people he says that “I’m still not ready to share my beautiful wife with anyone else” (Paris 12). When Diane and Esther their neighbours ask them about having a baby. To show that he is a very loving husband, he says that he does not want to share his wife with anyone and by this behaviour he tries to make others believe that there is no one perfect for her except him. The truth is that he neither wants any child nor he loves Grace. He does not allow her to go out or talk to anybody alone, not even with Millie when they visit her. She has no privacy in her life. Jack loves hearing Grace converse with others about their first meeting. Jack loves to hear this frequently because people think they are so in love with each other. When Diane invites her for lunch, Jack doesn’t let her go. When Diane and Esther ask, he says that she herself does not like to go out.

Jack imitates his father’s behaviour in controlling his wife. However, while his father used to abuse his wife physically, but Jack does not. He is a lawyer with expertise in domestic violence. He knows that if he physically violates his wife, he will get exposed to people and will get to know that they are not happy in their marriage and Jack is not treating his

wife well. He is not a good person and eventually, it leads to ruin his image in the society. He does not want any evidence against him. His father was not that smart but Jack improves himself and learns more by sending him to jail. If people find him doing the same thing he will also be punished for it. So, he abuses his wife emotionally and mentally only.

Jack's father never takes his wife out but Jack takes his wife out to make people believe she has all the freedom. He is so smart that he is controlling his wife in front of people and no one ever discovers what is happening around them and that Grace is a victim of domestic violence. He is more confident than his father and it comes from his surrounding environment. He is very clever always one step ahead of others. Whenever Grace tries to do something, he makes a trap for her and when she says something, he uses it against her. He always has some ideas about the next step. After their marriage when Grace wants to go to the hospital, he knows that how to make her go along with instead of visiting her sister.

Motivation is the behaviour that a child learns from his role model and takes it as a motivation by identifying ethics, mood and observed actions. There are several things in this novel from which Jack takes motivation. The first one is the father, during his childhood he sees his father abuse his mother and nobody is there to stop and punish him. Hence, he gets motivation from his father who is his role model during childhood and recognizes that no one can stop and punish him as well. From this scenario, he learns doing violence on women is something you are allowed to do. When his father reaches home after Jack has killed his mother, he hits Jack but killing his mother makes him feels strong and powerful and hits the father back. This shows that he has learned this behaviour from his father, that is: when someone has some sort of weakness, you can get exploit it, harm them and be acquitted of all blame. He puts the blame of his mother's murder on his father and sends him to jail and has never been found guilty by anyone. From this incident, he gets motivation that no one can ever punish him. To threaten Grace, he locked the puppy in the house when they go to Thailand and show Grace the dead body of the puppy to show that no one ever gets to know about this puppy. So, it gives him the motivation that if he has been successful in hiding the puppy, he can also hide Millie easily. He claims that he would tell people that Grace's parents "missed their beautiful daughter and that she's gone to live with them in New

Zealand” (Paris 166). He says this to Grace when she asks him what he is going to say when people ask where Millie is.

He has also gotten motivation from the people surrounding him. He considers that they trust him blindly. On his wedding day, he pushes Millie from the stairs and nobody gets to know about it. He gets the motivation again that he can do anything publicly with the one, who is helpless like Millie. People of his society are responsible for his motivation because of the image he has created in front of people. He is a successful lawyer and he helps advocate the rights of women in front of people and gain trust. Therefore, when they go to Thailand for the honeymoon, he tells her the truth and when she tries to run away to tell the hotel manager what Jack has told her, he proves her wrong and makes them believe Grace is unstable. His experiences are another reason for his motivation because he never fails in anything. When he gets successful in doing something next time, he does something on a bigger level. He gets motivation to go to any level because of Grace’s failure. She is unable to make others believe and escape. Her silence and mistakes give him the motivation to continue.

The study moves towards understanding domestic violence and its impact on a child in the novel *Behind Closed Doors* by B. A. Paris. For this purpose, the researcher first explains domestic violence that is not only violence against spouses. It can also be violence against siblings, parents, and children. It can be of many types which are physical, verbal, sexual or psychological. It is a social issue. The researcher has tried to find out the solution to this serious problem by highlighting the imitation of a child. The researcher has applied *Social Learning Theory* by Albert Bandura to study domestic violence in the novel *Behind Closed Doors* and how social conducts affect the behavior of a child and how a child adopts negative behavior easily. This theory has four notions which are stated as observational learning, they are attention, retention, motor reproduction and motivation. The researcher has discussed each notion of the theory carefully by focusing on three main characters of the novel which are Jack, Grace, and Millie.

Firstly, she has discussed the first notion which is attention and in this part, the researcher has explained how Jack learns everything by observing each and everything that is happening around him. He looks on as his father tortures his mother every day. It becomes his routine to observe the violence at his home and eventually, he starts longing for it.

After that, the researcher has explained the second notion, which is retention. When Jack observes the violent behavior of his father in his childhood, he starts memorizing all of it in his mind. He marries Grace and fulfills his desires and tortures her. It is a source of amusement for him.

Then, the researcher has discussed the third notion which is motor reproduction. In this part, the researcher has highlighted how Jack does not follow everything that his father does. He changes his behavior according to his surroundings. He does not practice physical violence. He tortures his wife verbally and psychologically. This shows his character development. The researcher has explained that how Jack used to fool people into believing him.

Highlighting the last notion, which is motivation the researcher points out that how and from where Jack gets motivation for doing violence what those factors are which gives him the motivation to keep doing all this.

The researcher tries to give the message by her research is that parents should not expose the child to such situations that have a negative impact on the child. A child learns things from his parents and from his environment and is more likely to adopt the negative behavior. Jack's father was a violent person, but if he did not violate his wife in front of his son, Jack too would fear the implications of violence and hypocrisy. He would abstain from converting into a morbid soul who only knows to terrorize and brutalize his partners. So, this paper will help other researchers to understand imitated behavior and its impacts.

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