A Critical Stylistics Analysis of Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*

Rashid Ali[1], Muhammad Raies[2], Kiran Jamil[3], Suhana Iqbal[4]

[1,2,3] MPhil in English Literature and Linguistics, Northern University Nowshera,
Email: [1]rashidalibsenglish@gmail.com, [2]muhammadraiespk123@gmail.com,
[3]kiranjameel850@gmail.com

[4] Mphil in English Literature Central South University of China
Email: suhanaiqbal@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study makes an attempt to undertake the critical stylistics analysis of Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017).* The study analyzes the discourses used for depicting gender identity, violence, social injustice, and humanism in the seemingly simple and reader-friendly novel of Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017).* The study was qualitative in nature and was based on an interpretivist paradigm. The study was conducted using Jeffries' The *Critical Stylistic, the power of English* (2010) as a theoretical framework, which expresses the power dynamics implied in the text, the social values and the cultural norms. In order to collect the relevant data for the analysis the researchers had used purposive sampling technique in the current study. The selected data was analyzed through Belsey's (2013) textual analysis model. The analysis revealed that in *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017),* Roy has used naming and describing, implying and assuming, negating, equating and contrasting, exemplifying and enumerating, Prioritizing, and hypothesizing to integrate identity, marginalization, political resistance, love, loss and interconnectedness as dominant themes.

Keywords: Critical Stylistics Analysis, Interpretivist Paradigm, Power Dynamics, Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* and Jeffries' The Critical Stylistic; the Power of English*, Belsey's (2013) Textual Analysis Model

Introduction

According to Chomsky (1968), one crucial characteristic that differentiates human beings from animals is their use of language to communicate with each other. However, an important linguist, Gee (2011), claims in his writings about language that language has another vital purpose besides communication, which is to enable people "to engage in actions and activities" and "to do things and to be things" (Gee, 2011). Individuals utilize language differently depending on the context. Jorgenson and Phillip (2002) state that language is arranged differently and it follows distinct patterns in various spheres of social life. They refer to this linguistic arrangement as 'discourse.' Any use of language, whether spoken or written, is considered discourse. Discourse analysis (DA) examines variations in these patterns' arrangements and functionalities. Critical discourse analysis (CDA), in contrast to discourse analysis (DA), takes a distinct stance on the examination of these linguistic patterns. In CDA, the word 'critical' refers to the linguistic context. Important pioneers in the field of CDA, such as Wodak and Meyer (2001), contend that speech can only be understood in light of its environment, and as a result, CDA recognizes extra linguistic variables, including society, culture, and ideology. The main purpose of CDA is to comprehend and evaluate the ways in which language is employed to establish and uphold social hierarchies, power dynamics, and

disparities. According to Van Dijk (2003), CDA focuses on the way in which a particular text or talk is used in the social and cultural context to oppose, reproduce, and ratify social power abuse, domination, and inequality. Critical discourse analysis employs the text for multifaceted purposes like power dynamics, contextual representation, and constructive measures to support the author's self-advocacy in creating the text. CDA research's origin in Europe after the 1970s has reflected two fundamental characteristics. The core study is language and its exposure to gain the reader experience (Woodak 2001). Power is discursively exercised and challenged at the agency and institutional levels. Power is omnipresent and works on a multidimensional level. Power is exercised and challenged through control, decision, force, weapons and domination, but language is symbolically and rhetorically a unique site and medium for power exercise and challenge. Linguistic and interactional structures strategically serve as means for power in language. Power is dynamic, multidimensional, manifold, relational, and omnipresent in social relation (Foucault, 1972). Implementing CDA as a literary criticism methodology may assist the researcher in looking from a fresh perspective to find the hidden units of language like political and social dimensions (Billing, 2008). In the current study, Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017)* is analyzed from the critical discourse perspective using the lens of Jefferies' (2010) *critical stylistics: the power of English.* The author's portrayal of marginalization, the depravity of the poor class, and the consumption of words representing Elite power abuse, social injustice, violence and personal politics are eminent points for critical discourse analysis.

Research Objectives
- To identify the impact of power through Language use in Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017).*
- To analyze the impact of language use on personal politics in Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017).*

Research Questions
1. What is the impact of power through language use in Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017)?*
2. How Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017)* is the portrayal of personal politics?

Literature Review
Lesley Jeffries' Critical Stylistics (2010) combines two linguistic approaches: classical stylistics and critical discourse analysis (CDA). It aims to understand how language generates thought and interpretation in texts by analyzing the linguistic choices made by writers or speakers. Eight methods for critical stylistic analysis were included in Jeffries' 2010 book *Critical Stylistics: The Power of English.* By utilizing these techniques, the concepts found in texts are analyzed, focusing on the production and administration of meaning. Blommaert and Bulcaen (2002) researched critical stylistics to illustrate the complicated connection between language and power in social contexts. The main concern of this study was to critically examine how the use of stylistic features in language is constructed to maintain power relations. Using the three-dimensional model as the theoretical foundation, the authors analysed different types of discourses to explain how language use relates to social practice and context. They concluded that structure and use of stylistic features play a critical role in constituting power relations and maintaining a call for more critical sociolinguistics that views language as a vector of ideology. Hardiyanti, Nugraheni, and Sumarlum (2018) researched Kamala's *Gadis Kretek* from the perspective of critical stylistic analysis. The purpose of this study was to determine the manner in which stylistic features of the text work to reinforce gender discrimination. The authors conducted qualitative research using the three-dimensional model as an analytical and theoretical approach. The study concluded that stylistic features in the text display the prejudice in society in terms of gender, pointing out how literature both subverts and perpetuates discrimination through words. Additionally, Shadnam (2023)

explored the symbolic aspects of workplace language in the research titled *Exploring Symbolic Aspects of Workplace Language: Essentially, this study is a Critical Stylistic Analysis*. The primary purpose of this study was to analyse the stylistic features that are evidenced in the interactions between employees and employers and how these features reflect power relations within the course of professional interactions. The study was based on critical stylistics as the methodological approach was aimed at investigating the role of stylistic features in the construction of authority and identity in various worked situations. The results of the study showed that some of the examined stylistic features are particularly important for constructing workplace subjectivities and organisational power relations, which in turn expose the politics of culture. A review of these studies reveals that the researchers discussed above have explored critical stylistics in various prose works. However, none of them have conducted a critical stylistic analysis of Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017)*. This study is an attempt to fill this gap.

Research Methodology
Current study is qualitative in nature and is based on interpretivist paradigm. Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017)* is the primary source of the study while various relevant articles, research papers, and books are the secondary sources of the study. These relevant studies help the researcher to gather information and provide knowledge about the current study. In order to collect the relevant data for the analysis the researcher uses purposive sampling technique. The selected data is analyzed through Belsey's (2013) textual analysis model.

Theoretical Framework
The study uses Jeffries' (2010) Critical Stylistics as a theoretical framework. Critical discourse analysis (CDA) and classical stylistics are two language approaches that are combined in Lesley Jeffries' Critical Stylistics. Through an analysis of the linguistic decisions made by authors or speakers, it seeks to comprehend how language produces thought and interpretation in texts. Jeffries' book Critical Stylistics: The Power of English (2010) included eight techniques for critical stylistic analysis. Employing these devices, the ideologies present in texts are dissected, with an emphasis on the creation and management of meaning. The researchers will go according to the following parameters in order to analyze the selected excerpts:

Naming and describing
This section reveals how an alternative name is used for the same person or things to describe their inner or deep features.

Representing actions, events, or states
This section deals with the verbal portion of the statement. It reveals the action of the name or word. For example, what is being done? Joad leans towards the driver and says the ''Homicide,'' which is used to highlight the conflict between the working class (Tom, Joad) and the oppressive capitalist system, i.e. the large corporate farms. The death of the PA Joads is the representation of the economic hardships, appetite and poverty-stricken life.

Equating and Contrasting
This portion reveals another linguistic quality of words: equating, which means using synonyms instead of the same word, and contrasting, which means using antonyms for the word instead of the original word.

Exemplifying and Enumerating
Exemplifying is also one of the linguistic features of the language. Exemplifying means using examples to describe or elaborate the word or language. Furthermore, enumerating means a county or fixed amount for the repeated words.

Prioritizing
Prioritising means giving priority over others. Here, the word prioritising is used as a linguistic feature of language. In language, we often use vocabulary or sentences that are more appealing than those that are conventional in a sense.

Implying and Assuming
Implying means implicit use of language rather than explicit, as in pragmatics. What is the implicit usage of language? Language has the power of assuming.

Negating
Negating means passing a negative comment about an event or phenomenon that is going around. For example, no, not, never, etc.

Hypothesising
It provides feasible and possible answers to the questions, or it is a kind of possible answer to the questions that a researcher wants to get in a future program.

Presenting Other People's Speech and Thoughts
It is the presentation of the people's opinions about any specific point.

Analysis and Discussion
This analysis focuses on the linguistic elements and themes in Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017).* The author illustrates a solid command of knowledge and ability in vividly presenting circumstances, using multiple strategies to analyse how power operates. This analysis demonstrates the ways in which Roy presents conflicts over power in her literature, emphasising the violence and social injustices tied to capitalism. In the following section the researchers present the analysis of some selected excerpts from the novel based on Belsey's textual analysis model (2013) and are guided by Critical Stylistics and the concepts presented in *The Power of English (2010).*

Extract 01
> *"He laughed. She laughed at his laugh. They shared a filter cigarette. He complained that Wills Navy Cut cigarettes were short and stumpy and simply not worth the price. She said she preferred them any day to Four Square or the very manly Red & White (Roy, 2017, p.9)."*

Naming and Describing:
Personal preference and branded recognition decisions through naming choices are subtle markers of personality and social classification. Certain cigarette brands, particularly Wills Navy Cut, Four Square and Red & White, hold cultural meaning because they connect to consumer psychology and gender identities along with personal historical experiences.

Table 1: Naming Choices

Name	Trigger	Description/Implication
Wills Navy Cut	Proper noun	Suggests a "classic" or "vintage" product, but the complaint hints at dissatisfaction or cynicism.
Four Square	Proper noun	Implies an alternative choice, positioned as less preferable to Wills Navy Cut by the characters.
Red & White	Proper noun	Described as "manly," evoking cultural stereotypes of gender and toughness tied to consumer goods.

Implying and Assuming:

Through dialogue, the text reveals social norms about consumer behaviour together with gender roles and social interaction. The choice of cigarette brands, alongside brand preferences and complaints, functions as tiny representations of personal identity and social relationships.

Table 2: Implied and Assumed Ideology

Implied/Assumed Idea	Explanation
Cigarettes as markers of identity	Brand preferences suggest class, taste, or familiarity within specific social strata.
Gendered perceptions of products	*Red & White* being described as "manly" reflects societal assumptions about masculinity.
Shared dissatisfaction as bonding	Their mutual complaint about *Wills Navy Cut* serves as a bridge for connection and intimacy.

Representing Actions/Events/States:

In this section, characters make their bond more potent by very funny inputs from characters that enhance their closeness. A ritual that takes shape when characters interact with a cigarette deepens their relationship.

Table 3: Material Processes

Verb/Process	Explanation
Laughed	Suggests a light-hearted, shared moment, building camaraderie between the characters.
Shared	Indicates cooperation and intimacy through the act of sharing a cigarette.
Complained	Highlights a personal perspective, revealing dissatisfaction and creating a point of connection.
Preferred	Suggests individual preferences, revealing personal identities and opinions.

Negating:

During the dialogue, disappointment and rejection toward particular products are expressed through negation. Wills Navy Cut loses value because it is "not worth the price," and Four Square gets excluded by "preferred them any day."

Table 4: Instances of Negation

Negation Trigger/Phrase	Function
"Not worth the price."	Denies value, indicating dissatisfaction with *Wills Navy Cut*.
"Preferred them any day."	Implicitly negates the appeal of *Four Square* and *Red & White*.

Equating and Contrasting:

The author uses cigarette brand comparisons to explore personal tastes as well as generate background relationships between characters. Wills Navy Cut's cigarette branding stands in

contrast to competing brands through comparisons that reveal individual preferences and social relationships.

Table 5: Contrasting Elements

Element 1	Element 2	Contrast Description
Wills Navy Cut	Four Square	*Wills Navy Cut* is described as unsatisfactory but still preferred over *Four Square*.
Wills Navy Cut	Red & White	*Red & White* is associated with masculinity, contrasting with *Wills Navy Cut's* broader appeal.

Hypothesising:
Character complaints, along with their preferences, reveal more profound societal beliefs about paradigms. Through their complaints, the dissatisfaction becomes a critique of consumer product commodification, yet sharing cigarettes indicates there might be more profound social hypotheses about creating unity through shared consumption.

Table 6: Hypothetical Implications

Hypothesis	Explanation
Critique of commodification	Dissatisfaction with *Wills Navy Cut* hints at broader critiques of quality and value.
Intimacy through shared rituals	Sharing a cigarette suggests that rituals can foster connection and intimacy.
Gendered branding reflects the culture	Labelling *Red & White* as "manly" suggests cultural stereotypes in consumer branding.

Exemplifying and Enumerating:
The text uses specific examples of cigarette brands and character reactions to illustrate broader identity and social behaviour themes.

Table 7: Examples of Preferences and Reactions

Example	Explanation
Wills Navy Cut	Serves as a shared reference point for dissatisfaction, reflecting consumer critiques.
Four Square and *Red & White*	Highlight personal preferences and cultural connotations tied to gender and branding.

Presenting Others' Speech and Thoughts:
All dialogue in this scene consists of character communication that shows their attitudes and subjective interactions and beliefs. Through this conversation, readers learn about how the characters relate to each other and what values they share.

Prioritising:
People rank Wills Navy Cut higher than Four Square or Red & White tobacco products due to individual feelings and socially linked connections to their sensory experiences.

Table 8: Prioritising Elements

Element	Priority Level
Wills Navy Cut	Highest priority, despite dissatisfaction (a reluctant favourite).
Four Square and Red & White	Lower priority, dismissed as less desirable alternatives.

Representing Time, Space, and Society:
During this fleeting encounter in a relaxed environment, society displayed its traditional norms of tobacco use alongside conventional male and female roles. Sharing and connecting occur without time limits, suggesting that this experience exists beyond time constraints.

Table 9: Time, Space, and Society

Aspect	Representation
Time	Unspecified; focuses on a fleeting moment of connection.
Space	Likely a casual, personal space where smoking and conversation feel natural and intimate.
Society	Reflects mid-20th century norms, with smoking as a cultural marker and gendered branding.

Extract 02

> *"The next morning, when the sun was up and the room nice and warm, she unswaddled little Aftab. She explored his tiny body – eyes nose head neck armpits fingers toes – with sated, unhurried delight. That was when she discovered, nestling underneath his boy-parts, a small, unformed, but undoubtedly girl-part (Roy,2017 p. 179)."*

Naming and Describing
Through the simple naming of body parts, the text expresses the mother's interest and gently introduces the cultural importance of gender distinctions. Children discover their body parts through "boy parts" and "girl parts," indicating that biological sex and gender identity form cultural constructs which shape this discovery.

Table 1: Naming Choices

Name	Trigger	Description/Implication
Boy-parts	Common noun phrase	Conveys assumed masculinity, based on prior expectations of Aftab's biological sex.
Girl-part	Common noun phrase	Highlights an unexpected discovery that challenges the binary assumptions of gender and sex.

Implying and Assuming
A set of cultural beliefs about both gender and sexual identity exists within this text. Society uses the initial swaddling practice to define infant classification and protection through the assigned birth sex. The discovery reveals problems with this established classification system by subtly challenging the strict organisation of categories.

Table 2: Implied and Assumed Ideology

Implied/Assumed Idea	Explanation
Binary understanding of gender	The "boy-parts" and "girl-part" terminology imply the societal expectation of strictly binary gender.
Gender expectations tied to biology	The act of "discovery" assumes that anatomy determines identity, reflecting a socially ingrained ideology.
Uncertainty in binaries is disruptive.	The "unformed" nature of the girl-part challenges the presumption of clear, binary categorisations.

Representing Actions/Events/States

With affection and curiosity, this sequence of actions guides the mother through body exploration until she discovers a key bodily difference. Her slow, careful actions make her aware of each aspect under investigation.

Table 3: Material Processes

Verb/Process	Explanation
Unsaddled	Suggests a deliberate and intimate act of uncovering, highlighting care and curiosity.
Explored	Indicates a thorough, attentive engagement with Aftab's body, representing maternal affection.
Discovered	Marks the pivotal moment of realisation, where assumed certainties are disrupted.
Nestling	Suggests something hidden or unexpected, adding tenderness and subtle surprise to the discovery.

Negating

Although it does not appear directly, the text features an underlying denial of absolute certainty. The unformed girl-part discovery undermines the previous certainty about Aftab's sex, therefore revealing the fractured quality of two-category positions.

Equating and Contrasting

Through implicit comparison between Aftab's "boy parts" and the "girl part," the text establishes a tension between male-female categories. The unestablished female parts are a central contrasting element that displays uncertain characteristics in the firm boundaries of sex and gender.

Table 5: Contrasting Elements

Element 1	Element 2	Contrast Description
Boy-parts	Girl-part	Represents the binary expectations of male vs. female anatomy, with ambiguity challenging this binary.
Assumed normalcy	Uncertainty	The mother's initial perception of Aftab contrasts with her realisation of anatomical complexity.

Hypothesising

Within this research material, the authors present possible effects on society from this scientific finding without making direct declarations. This discovery's unclear gender characteristics will shape future discussions over gender-based norms regarding roles and identity boundaries.

Table 6: Hypothetical Implications

Hypothesis	Explanation
Societal challenges around gender	Aftab's anatomy may lead to difficulties in navigating a binary-focused society.
Re-examining gender roles	The discovery may force those around Aftab to reconsider assumptions about identity and gender norms.

Exemplifying and Enumerating

The specification of Aftab's body from "eyes to girl parts shows how the exploration led the mother to discover an unexpected finding. The gradual exposition of detail shows how much care the mother gives, intensifying the effect when she discovers the dolphins.

Table 7: Examples of Exploration

Example	Explanation
"Eyes, nose, head, neck…"	Represents routine maternal observation and care, setting a tender and intimate tone.
"Boy-parts, girl-part"	Exemplifies the unexpected discovery of ambiguity, disrupting the routine care sequence.

Presenting Others' Speech and Thoughts

The narrative lacks direct dialogue, but through her actions and thoughts, the mother reveals how she sees Aftab's body. As the mother observes her son in a delightful state of relaxation, her parental emotion mixes with a curious mindset, giving the incident more value.

Prioritising

The transition from normal exploration toward finding the girl part reflects how the moment when understanding emerges takes position as the central theme throughout the text. The discovery transforms our understanding of who Aftab is.

Table 8: Prioritising Elements

Element	Priority Level
Exploration of body	Secondary priority serves as a precursor to the main event.
Discovery of girl-part	The highest priority represents the transformative moment in the text.

Representing Time, Space, and Society

This narrative depicts a short instance of maternal nurturing and discovery within a reserved personal setting. The discussion of Aftab's body remains central, although the impact of gender identities on society remains integrated yet discrete in the narrative.

Table 9: Time, Space, and Society

Aspect	Representation
Time	Captures a specific, fleeting moment during the morning routine.
Space	A warm, enclosed domestic space, emphasising intimacy and privacy.
Society	Implies societal norms of gender and sex, which are subtly challenged by the discovery.

Extract 03

"A thin white horse tethered to the railing, a small dog with mange, a concrete-coloured garden lizard, two palm-striped squirrels who should have been asleep and, from her hidden perch, a she-spider with a swollen egg sac watched over her. Other than that, she seemed to be utterly alone (Roy,2017, p.51)."

Naming and Describing

Selective animal descriptions combined with concrete object terminology create a sense of loneliness and characterising neglect through the implication of dangerous conditions. All five elements (the horse, dog, lizard, squirrel, and spider) in this passage come with specific philosophies which establish either bleakness or harshness in their surroundings. Four specific terms chosen by the author—tethered, mange, concrete-coloured, swollen egg sac—show decay along with neglect, so the reader perceives desolation.

Table 1: Naming Choices

Name	Trigger	Description/Implication
Thin white horse	Common noun phrase	A fragile, perhaps malnourished animal, emphasising a sense of vulnerability and neglect.
A small dog with mange	Common noun phrase	The dog's mange suggests sickness or a lack of care, reinforcing themes of abandonment or poor conditions.
Concrete-coloured lizard	Common noun phrase	The lizard's dull colour connotes sterility and a lack of life or vibrancy.
Palm-striped squirrels	Common noun phrase	Usually, lively squirrels are described as out of place and "should have been asleep," indicating disturbance.
She-spider with swollen egg sac	Specific phrase	With its swollen egg sac, the spider could symbolise a potential threat or dark foreboding, adding to the eerie atmosphere.

Implying and Assuming

The text shows how the environment sustains an abandoned and cruel character. Through their different degrees of damage to health, the described animals hint towards deteriorating conditions in the described setting. The swollen egg sac on the "she-spider" signals potential threats that exist just beyond typical daily life experiences. The descriptions of animals reveal a reader's understanding of an unattended habitat that lacks both care and nurturing.

Table 2: Implied and Assumed Ideology

Implied/Assumed Idea	Explanation
Neglect and decay are present.	The dog with mange, the thin horse, and the sickly lizard all imply an environment where care is absent.
The presence of life is tenuous.	The small, abnormal animals reflect a fragile and unbalanced ecosystem.
Threat or unease in the natural world	The she-spider with the egg sac implies something ominous or dangerous lurking in the environment.

Representing Actions/Events/States

This section presents passive actions which the material processes observe. Within this scene, the animals exist merely as observers who remain connected to their bindings and show symptoms of mange while remaining asleep and suffering surveillance from predators. The frozen stance of observation by the spider, together with the looming threat from the enlarged egg mass, adds weight to the idea that this environment shows both worry and immobilisation.

Table 3: Material Processes

Verb/Process	Explanation
Tethered	Implies a state of restriction or entrapment, with the horse being tied up, suggesting powerlessness.
With mange	Describes the dog's diseased state, implying decay and sickness.
Should have been asleep	Describes an unnatural activity for the squirrels, suggesting confusion or imbalance.
Watched over	The spider's passive observation suggests something ominous or threatening yet inert.

Negating

The writer uses indistinct forms of denial especially through descriptions of both animals and landscape features. Through its description of the "small dog with mange" and the "should have been asleep" state, the text rejects both health and vitality as well as natural order and harmony. This phrase confirms absolute separation from all presence of life or companionship.

Table 4: Instances of Negation

Negation	Trigger/Phrase	Function
Absent vitality	"With mange"	Implies the absence of health and liveliness.
Disrupted normalcy	"Should have been asleep."	Negates the natural cycle or behaviour, suggesting something is wrong.
Total isolation	"Utterly alone"	Emphasises complete abandonment, with no companionship or support.

Equating and Contrasting

Through the animals, the text establishes an opposition where different conditions of neglect and abnormality appear. The comparison between these four animals shows that the environment feels rotting through its malformed naturally occurring creatures: neither living flora nor fauna flees it. When seen internally, the silent watcher works as the definitive opposition between external animal activities and unseen observation. This mysterious figure presents possibly disconnected insight into this forsaken realm.

Table 5: Contrasting Elements

Element 1	Element 2	Contrast Description
Sick dog	Healthy creatures	The dog's illness contrasts with the idea of a healthy, natural animal, enhancing the scene's decay.
Active squirrels	Passive spider	The out-of-place squirrels contrast with the spider's quiet, potentially dangerous observation.
Desolate environment	She (the observer)	The sense of desolation is contrasted with the presence of a hidden observer, suggesting isolation.

Hypothesising

Structural hypotheses remain absent, but a threatening environmental future excludes itself through indirect statements. The sick animals and spider egg sacs are an environment that threatens both animal health and safety.

Table 6: Hypothetical Implications

Hypothesis	Explanation
A future of increasing decay	The presence of sick animals and the spider's egg sac implies that the environment will continue deteriorating.
The rise of potential danger	The spider's egg sac suggests a future where danger or discomfort may increase, particularly as it suggests the reproduction and growth of something ominous.

Exemplifying and Enumerating

Through specific illustrations, the text depicts life's deterioration through examples, including the dog with mange and the horse tethered to the railing. A list of abnormal animals loudly demonstrates the decline of a worsening world.

Table 7: Examples of Degradation

Example	Explanation
"Dog with mange"	Exemplifies illness and neglect, underscoring the decay of the environment.
"Thin white horse"	Exemplifies vulnerability and malnutrition, suggesting a lack of care or sustenance.
"She-spider with swollen egg sac"	Represents a potentially dangerous, hidden threat, adding an eerie, foreboding element to the scene.

Presenting Others' Speech and Thoughts

Throughout the text, direct dialogue between individuals does not occur. Instead, the reader experiences the natural observations of an unseen watchful presence who calls herself "she." Peace builds throughout the scene because the spider-watching involves an inside view inspired by detachment and thoughtfulness.

Prioritising

The narrative focuses primarily on environmental description because the conditions of animals serve as the central elements that create the atmosphere throughout this scene. The observer maintains a minor figure across the passage because of this background positioning which deepens the sense of solitude.

Table 8: Prioritising Elements

Element	Priority Level
Description of animals	The highest priority is that the animals' conditions set the tone of the environment and establish the mood.
The observer (she)	Lower priority: her presence is implied but not overtly focused on.

Representing Time, Space, and Society

A time frame remains unclear since the piece presents itself within the larger plot of a decaying abandoned community. The spaces demonstrate abandonment because neglected creatures share the realms with a concealed observer. This points towards both uncaring society and failed care structures.

Table 9: Time, Space, and Society

Aspect	Representation
Time	Implied to be present or ongoing, though no direct markers are given.
Space	A bleak, neglected environment where the creatures' conditions reflect neglect or decay.
Society	Implied decay or neglect in society, as the animals and environment reflect abandonment.

Extract 04

> *"On the city's industrial outskirts, in the miles of bright swamp tightly compacted with refuse and colourful plastic bags, where the evicted had been 're-settled', the air was chemical and the water poisonous. Clouds of mosquitoes rose from thick green ponds. Surplus mothers perched like sparrows on the debris of what used to be their homes and sang their surplus children to sleep (Roy, 2017, p.3)."*

Naming and Describing

Through its vibrant symbolic language, the passage creates images which reveal both the lack of basic needs and the ecological destruction of the environment and social abandonment. Through five successive terms ("bright swamp," "refuse," "plastic bags," "chemical air," and "poisonous water") a pessimistic depiction of a dystopian border existence emerges, which shows the poisonous conditions of overcrowded populations. The identified places and objects serve dual functions by providing environmental descriptions while simultaneously evoking emotional responses about systemic abandonment along with ecological violence. The term "surplus mothers" describes a ruthless label that treats people as unwanted extras, which intensifies social and environmental injustice narratives.

Table 1: Naming Choices

Name	Trigger	Description/Implication
Industrial outskirts	Common noun phrase	Suggests a place of neglect, a boundary beyond the city proper, reinforcing themes of exclusion.
Bright swamp	Common noun phrase	The term "bright" contrasts ironically with "swamp," suggesting a deceptively hazardous place.
Refuse	Common noun	Implies waste and abandonment, reinforcing the environment's lack of value or care.
Colourful plastic bags	Common noun	Contrasts the grim setting with bright, discarded materials, emphasising the jarring presence of waste.
Chemical air	Common noun	Implies pollution and danger, underscoring the toxic nature of the environment.
Poisonous water	Common noun	Reinforces the hazard of the environment, indicating a water source that is harmful to health.
Surplus mothers	Specific term/phrase	Frames the mothers as unwanted, as "surplus," suggesting their marginalised position in society.
Debris	Common noun	Refers to the remains of former homes, signalling destruction and loss.
Surplus children	Specific term/phrase	The term "surplus" again denotes excess, implying that these children are unwanted or without value.

Implying and Assuming

The writer takes for granted that readers understand the reality of dense, dangerous living spaces where society's excluded residents reside. The area displays multiple patterns of neglect under both governmental and social systems ("evicted" and "re-settled") and environmental systems (poisoned air and water). The author presumes readers will recognise the dehumanising nature of "surplus" because it signifies the people's valuelessness to society.

Table 2: Implied and Assumed Ideology

Implied/Assumed Idea	Explanation
Environmental degradation	The "chemical" air and "poisonous" water suggest that the environment is toxic and hazardous.
Marginalisation of the poor	The people are "evicted" and "re-settled," implying that they have been pushed to the outskirts, away from urban life and resources.
The dehumanisation of the displaced	The term "surplus mothers" suggests a view of these people as excess, dehumanised and disposable.
Resilience in hardship	Despite the harsh conditions, the image of the mothers "singing their surplus children to sleep" hints at a fragile yet enduring human spirit.

These implied ideas set up a worldview where environmental degradation and social exclusion are interconnected, leading to the alienation of vulnerable communities.

Representing Actions/Events/States

Through material processes, this passage illustrates states and actions that focus on deep suffering, societal neglect, and human resilience. These surplus mothers act as disrupted creatures who both experience physical relocation while remaining emotionally unsettled through the imagery of their resting positions in garbage-filled spaces, revealing their fragile nature. Despite the harsh environment, people found ways to provide care by singing to their surplus children to make them sleep.

Table 3: Material Processes

Verb/Process	Explanation
Evicted	Describes the removal or displacement of people, underscoring the theme of social injustice.
Re-settled	Suggests forced relocation, implying a lack of choice or agency in the lives of the displaced.
Perched	The word choice evokes a fragile, precarious situation, with the mothers in an unstable position.
Sang	The singing conveys a sense of care and tenderness, despite the harshness.

Negating

The passage negates the idea of a healthy, thriving environment or community. The toxic "chemical air" combined with "poisonous water" removes all potential security and nourishment from the natural environment, allocating further strength to the harshness of their environment. In the "surplus" category, mothers and children are in a state of social rejection because they receive zero recognition or value.

Table 4: Instances of Negation

Negation	Trigger/Phrase	Function
Absence of care	"Evicted" and "re-settled"	Negates the idea of care or concern for these people by suggesting they have been displaced.
Unsafe environment	"Chemical air" and "poisonous water"	Negates the possibility of the environment being life-sustaining or healthy.
Absence of value	"Surplus mothers" and "surplus children"	Negates the idea that these individuals are important or valued by society, portraying them as excess.

Equating and Contrasting

This section establishes a parallel between the environment's poisonous world and the human capacity to demonstrate protective actions and resilience to such actions. When mothers position themselves like sparrows, they sing to put their children to rest because this nurturing behaviour resists the threats of their dangerous surroundings. A sharp divide exists between the active but destructive "bright swamp" and the "surplus" mothers who create a dual picture of environmental survival versus ecological breakdown.

Table 5: Contrasting Elements

Element 1	Element 2	Contrast Description
Harsh environment	Surplus mothers	The contrast between the toxic surroundings and the tender care of the mothers underscores the fragility of life and survival in such an environment.
Bright swamp	Poisonous water	The "bright swamp" is jarring in its appearance versus the poisonous water, symbolising deceptive appearances versus reality.
Evicted people	Perched mothers	The mothers, though evicted and marginalised, still demonstrate resilience in their care of children, contrasting with their displacement.

Hypothesising

Through implicit language, the piece shows an outlook for enduring hazardous conditions that become more toxic over time. The "chemical air" and "poisonous water" indicate that conditions will grow more dangerous over the coming period. The writers use "surplus" mothers and children to suggest a perpetual cycle of poverty, which might intensify, thus trapping these people within a continuous pattern of environmental damage and social neglect.

Table 6: Hypothetical Implications

Hypothesis	Explanation
Worsening conditions	The description of toxic air and water implies that the environment will become more hazardous.
Continuation of marginalization	The term "surplus mothers" implies that these individuals will continue to be disregarded and excluded from society.

Exemplifying and Enumerating

The text demonstrates environmental and population-specific examples, which create vivid pictures of the neglected and abused conditions suffered by the removed group. Human suffering manifests as an absolute connection between ecological degradation through examples of a "bright swamp" assembled from "plastic bags" and "refuse" together with "surplus mothers" who care for their children.

Table 7: Examples of Degradation

Example	Explanation
"Bright swamp"	Exemplifies the false allure of the environment, where appearance contrasts with toxicity.
"Surplus mothers perched."	Exemplifies the human condition in the context of poverty and marginalisation.
"Poisonous water"	Exemplifies the environmental hazards that directly result from neglect and human displacement.

Presenting Others' Speech and Thoughts

Throughout the text, the author shows the characters' internal processes without quoting direct conversations because he conveys these actions symbolically through his word choices. Through singing to their children, mothers create a powerful statement about their inner strength and parental love even though their living conditions demand no such care.

Prioritising

This section of writing gives more attention to the description of environmental toxicity than to profiles of displaced individuals. These toxic atmospheric conditions and poisonous liquids push themselves into the foreground due to their systemic significance of environmental and social negligence despite marginalising the mothers and children.

Table 8: Prioritising Elements

Element	Priority Level
Harsh environment	Highest priority (most immediately threatening)
Surplus mothers/children	Secondary priority (human suffering within the environment)

Representing Time, Space, and Society

According to the text, environmental degradation and displacement occur through a prolonged trajectory, although it avoids specifying chronological keys. The area functions as a contaminated

borderland that pushes away displaced people. The presented society shows total abandonment of its vulnerable members while it continually produces poverty alongside exclusion and environmental collapse.

Table 9: Time, Space, and Society

Aspect	Representation
Time	Implied long-term degradation, though no specific time markers are given.
Space	A marginal, toxic space where displacement and environmental damage dominate.
Society	A society that marginalises the poor, forcing them into dangerous and unhealthy living conditions.

Findings and Conclusion

In the *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017)* Roy establishes deeper truths about social constructions, identity development and gender fragmentation by using special language features, character dynamics, and unspoken plot signals. Through a naming, implying, and contrasting framework we discover the following themes:

Identity and Marginalization

The three featured tobacco brands—the Wills Navy Cut Four Square and the Red & White—as personal preferences indicate which social group and gender each character belongs to. Wills Navy Cut is an ordinary preference for most readers, but its exclusion from the other brands illustrates social constraints alongside personal boundaries. Through its depiction of Aftab's gender discovery, the second literary segment contests fixed sex-to-gender identification. The two pieces analyses how societal norms shape identity and marginalisation through characters who disrupt these norms through their cigarette choices and Aftab's unusual body. Through Aftab's body, the text exposes rigid gender systems to reveal how identity exists between social norms yet challenges societies that reject nonconforming individuals.

Political Conflict and Resistance

Despite lacking explicit political content, the texts convey their main idea of fighting against established social norms through subtle methods. Every character in these passages utilises minor rebellious gestures as they examine cigarettes and explore a child's physical body. Their sense of displeasure with consumer goods and their discovery of unidentifiable gender cause them to break from conventional cultural expectations quietly. The exchange demonstrates how individual choices create small battlegrounds against broader political forces and authoritarian systems which dominate the fictional world. Throughout his narrative, Roy uses quiet rebellions to convey personal discovery experiences after society rejects him and he faces systematic control. Through their complaint about cigarette quality, Aftab and Aliza practice defiance against product commodities while exposing problematic binary thinking about gender through Aftab's gender ambiguity. The small rebellious actions mirror the novel's main political narrative because self-expression is a fundamental theme in the characters' battles.

Love and Loss

Throughout the text, readers experience love alongside loss as characters develop bonds with other people and their environment. Throughout the first passage, characters connect through shared laughter while lighting up cigarettes. They simultaneously criticise their favourite brands. Through this collective ritual, both parties glimpse an elusively profound bond that stems from knowing and caring about each other. Sharing cigarettes links to emotional contact by generating that intimate bond when people inhabit an unfulfilling external reality. Through her gentle investigation

of Aftab's body, the mother demonstrates an intense, unhurried love for her daughter. This discovery of uncertainty creates emotional complexity that will eventually become grief and loss because our society insists on absolute categorisation. Affection pairs with discomfort during discovery to demonstrate that love persistently combines with uncertain loss manifestations when societal expectations threaten an individual's existential stability.

Interconnected Lives
Through his expert storytelling, Roy demonstrates that each minor social exchange weaves characters into the novel's overarching narrative. The characters develop subtle, meaningful relationships through the cigarette exchange and through their shared complaints, preferences, and mutual experiences. The bonds between individuals result from basic experiences of sharing items and exchanging their ideas about their defining characteristics and unfulfilling aspects. The mother's private discovery of Aftab's gender triggers broader societal consequences, which determine how the world will interact with him. Aftab's life path toward other people will change after this discovery challenges societal understandings of self-identification. Smaller personal experiences create extended effects throughout The Notebook's narrative because individuals connect through cigarette brands and through discovering children's bodies.

Hope and Resilience
Throughout the story's disruptive narratives about consumer dissatisfaction and discovered gender ambiguity, the characters demonstrate continuous strength and optimism. When societal forces fall short, the shared cigarette creates a symbolic bonding experience that establishes comfort in shared experiences. After discovering Aftab's gender differences through gentle touch, the mother shows optimism about life as it is instead of trying to funnel it into cultural expectations. Throughout the narrative, both characters maintain their connection through awkward situations as they experience uncertainty. The narrative features resilience as one important element supporting the story's central message about survival and hope. Throughout the novel, Aftab's body serves as a survival emblem for people who resist following societal norms. Roy shows that tenderness, understanding, and new types of connection possibilities remain possible even when society rejects individuals. Through these passages, Roy demonstrates how personal discovery exists as a complex process that operates within the constraints of societal structures. Through exploring cigarette choices and investigating gender differences, the story illustrates how individual identities take multiple shapes due to societal expectations of behavior. Through these moments, we see how the themes of identity and marginalization combine with political conflict and resistance, love and loss, and interconnected lives to create reflections of the novel's broader exploration of human lives in a fractured, conflicted world.

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