



## A Critical View of the Implications of Socioeconomic Status on Spousal Life in Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night



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### Abstract

*The study aims to investigate the subject of financial status and its consequences for parenthood in the play Long Day's Journey into Night by Eugene O'Neill. The study explores the personality of James Tyrone in the illumination of the financial hypothesis by Max Weber and its consequences for his social way of behaving inside the circle of his day-to-day life. The specialist applied a financial hypothesis and involved a subjective technique for information investigation. The research work investigated the personality of James Tyrone and reasoned that James Tyrone was an industrialist character whose main point was to bring in cash which seriously impacted his day-to-day life.*

**Pages:** 227 – 235

**Vol. VI, No. II**  
(Spring 2021)

### Key Words:

Financial Hypothesis by Max Weber, James Tyron, Socioeconomic Status; Subjective Technique for Information Investigation

### JEL Classification:

## Introduction

Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night* was written in 1941-42. It was first released in 1956 but it was kept unpublished for the first several years, because of its confidential issues. When it was finally opened on Broadway in November 1956, it received the Tony grant on account of top show. Eugene won the Pulitzer Prize for best drama writer in 1957 for this play. The piece focuses on the Tyrone family and the issues that they face in their daily lives. The guardians, James Tyrone and Mary, and their two children, Jamie and Edmund, make up the family. The mother may be a morphine

someone who is addict, and Edmund, the family's more youthful kid, has TB. The title "Long Day" alludes to the play's area, which takes put over one day in Tyrone's late spring residence.

The play introduces the audience to the fictional characters of The Tyrone family and narrates the story of love and betrayal as well as the fragility and strength of family bonds. The relationship of father and sons which are James Tyrone-the father and Jamie the elder and Edmund the younger son is specifically narrated.

The play portrayed numerous aspects of daily routines, such as present-day

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existence, lack of pledges, divided family love, and a family's financial situation. In plain words, the study aims to portray a merciless and hardhearted examination of modern-day existence, for which we can coin the term "kitchen-sink authenticity." The play also depicts a man's disturbed mental state as a result of his separation from his family. The drama explores financial issues through the character of James Tyrone, the penny-thieving, cash-devoted father, as well as reliance because of the character of Mary. Eugene O'Neill introduces his audience to the realistic complexities of everyday life. His characters are as real as if they are like family members and friends. In addition to it, the setting also seems to be a location in real life.

The study examines the social and economic perspectives of the modern world's groupings. This study holds a mirror to the day-to-day happenings that any lower middle class may face and therefore highlights the different challenges that lower-income families face as a result of financial disparity. The best depiction of a family's financial status and how it affects their day-to-day lives may be seen in *Long Day's Journey into Night*.

## Theoretical Framework

The research in social sciences is usually qualitative and theory-determined. This study will ponder on the idea of the scholars who already have worked on various dimensions as far as economic matter is concerned but before directly jumping to a critical review of related literature, first, the researcher will focus on the theoretical framework. A theoretical framework is a broader comprehensible and complete understanding of a phenomenon. It is further comprised of different concepts that are called conceptual frameworks. As far as social sciences are concerned the

research in social sciences is qualitative, theory-driven and epistemological. Perhaps, to search for one single theory relating to the legitimacy of any phenomenon, will be just an exaggeration and injustice to the world of knowledge.

The theoretical framework applied here is Marxist theory. It guides the study, of how economic conditions affect human relations. The theory will clear the path to conducting research in a proper way and will help the future researcher as well.

A literature review is regarded as imperative consider due to the fact we continuously talk about the views of different people. In the literature overview, the researchers deal with special extraordinary researchers and theorists. Karl Marx introduced Marxism. The majority of Marxist critics who wrote in what has come to be known as "vulgar Marxism" subscribed to what may favour being historically awesome as the early measurement of Marxist literary criticism. Literary texts are one component of the infrastructure in this organization of societies, which is made possible by the economic foundation of each individual civilization.

Because all social institutions, or more specifically human-social relationships, are ultimately determined by the economic base, literary texts reflect the economic base rather than "the social institutions from which they originate." As economic stability plays a vital role in establishing a successful human relationship in any social context.

Marxists oppose that literature itself serves a specific ideological purpose that is based explicitly on the author's background and ideology and that literature itself is a social group. Marxist criticism is defined as follows by the English literary critic and cultural theorist Terry Eagleton: "*Marxist criticism is now not only a 'sociology of*

*literature,' concerned with how novels get published and whether or not they exclude the working class".*

Its goal is to provide a more thorough justification for the literary work; this could be a touchy subject for its forms, styles, and meanings. However, it is also conceivable to understand that these patterns and meanings are the results of a particular history.

Marx and Engels jointly wrote a number of books that were firmly rooted in capitalism, class conflict, and socialist movements. ([Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Communist Manifesto](#), Norton, 2013.)

The Communist Manifesto, published in 1848, makes the claim that "the statistics of all societies up to this point are the records of category warfare." Class conflict is the driving force behind history, so in order to understand its course, one must examine the class relationships within the family that best represent a certain historical epoch, as well as the struggles and types of class conflict they sum up.

This contains the development of class consciousness and comes in response to the creative attacks that target the dominating ruling classes. It also includes evaluating how successful these revolutions were at reproducing new forms of social organization and modes of production. Contrary to the Manifesto, the Preface to the Contribution to the Evaluation of Political Economy (1859) and Capital (1867) place more emphasis on a system's developing sound judgment as a choice than on a struggle for form. These give a persuasive explanation of ancient improvement and highlight the self-defeating discrepancies and rules of conduct of distinct modes of production.

## Research Questions

1. What are the implications of

socioeconomic status on spousal life in *Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night*?

2. How do we interpret the implications of socioeconomic status on the spousal life of James Tyrone in terms of Marxist Literary Criticism?

## Research Objectives

1. To highlight the implications of socioeconomic status on spousal life in *Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night*.
2. To explore the implications of socioeconomic status on spousal life in *Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night*.

## Rationale

This research examines the social and economic perceptions of the modern world's alignments. The study reflects the impacts of financial instability on the domestic life of people, highlighting the different challenges that lower-income families face as a result of financial discrepancy. The study rightfully portrays the best depiction of a family's financial status and how it affects their day-to-day lives is clearly seen in *Long Day's Journey into Night*. Thus it is concluded that the author of the play has introduced the audience to realism.

## Significance

This work gives new aspects in the field of writing, present-day performance in theatres and in different fields of information. This work additionally adds new data to the previous sources of information. A superior understanding about flourish and agreeable day-to-day life can be created from this very work. This work additionally gives a mental picture of present-day man while battling

for accomplishing a superior financial status in the general public.

## Delimitation

*Long Day's Journey into Night* could be a multi-topical show including four partitioned characters that deal with a variety of issues. The central concern of this book is James Tyrone's identity as seen by means of the focal point of money-related inquiries. *Long Day's Journey into Night* by Eugene O'Neill is the only work of his that will be discussed in the remaining review. Only James Tyrone's personality has been linked to the financial hypothesis. This study does not include any further theory or notion.

## Discussion and Analysis

Every individual has a psychological breaking point to deal with pressure, when this stress possibly exceeds then the individual is looking for a method for getting away from the truth to find out and settle down mitigation from the pressure for quite a while. The same is the case with the characters of Eugene O'Neill in *Long Day's Journey into Night*.

## Drug Addicted Characters

In various ways of idealism, illicit drug use is the most widely recognized one. Mary the main person and spouse of James Tyrone is morphine-dependent. Mary needed to be a convent believer or a professional piano player. In the wake of the wedding to James Tyrone, he abandons her fantasy and that later lead to her emotional history. In the end, she has been exceptionally content with her matrimonial being afterwards a long time including a most unpleasantly awful encounter of going on the boulevards and remaining in filthy bars and lodgings with her significant other. Being an entertainer an essential point of James Tyrone was to bring in cash because of which he was unable to stand to offer his significant

other appropriate time and consideration. Mary says that Mr Tyrone never stresses over anything, with the exception of property and cash and he will end his days in poverty. And because of James's extravagant and least bothering consequences' nature, Marry commented that James would die a miserable miser death.

*"When it's all said and done, profoundly stressed. Since he can't actually comprehend anything more" (p.87).*

Throughout her gestation, the physician advised her to use morphine as an uneasiness treatment, but it, unfortunately, led to her long-term bondage. Following a long-term morphine addiction, Mary became separated from her family, making her hesitant and uninterested in family activities. She enjoys recollecting her childhood and remained nostalgic.

*"The past is the present, right? It's the future, as well. We as a whole attempt to lie out of that however life won't let us."*

She couldn't help to escape from it and her drug addiction paved the way to separate from her present family life and adore childhood fantasised life free from any hard realities of real life.

*It is quite difficult for them all. They can't ignore it because they can't. (1.1.228)*

Mary imagines she has a strong desire for something dreadful. She recalls feeling neither forlorn nor fearful when she got it. She can't have misplaced it until the end of time, she concludes, for if she did, she'd vanished.

*"There would be no expectation since then." (4.1.237)*

## Jamie

The senior child of the family was carrying on with an impulsive life which is the fundamental explanation for James Tyrone's constant battle with him all through the show. He can possibly be an

effective entertainer however he failed to overcome his inadequacies and failed to prove his potential productive and hence has to pay the penalty by wasting all his fortune on liquor and prostitution. He was viewed as a capricious and lazy individual in the family. About his dad he is a capricious individual on the outer layer of earth, his dad says: his psyche is so harmed by his own disappointment throughout everyday life, he simply needs to accept each man is a rascal with his spirit available to be purchased, and *"Each lady who isn't prostitute is a numbskull"* (p.30).

Jamie believed that his younger brother Edmund was to blame for his mother's morphine addiction, as a result of which they were denied their mother's attention, which had a significant impact on Jamie's character. When one does not receive the appropriate measure of attention and consideration from one's parents, this contributes to discouragement as well as scattering.

### Edmund Tyrone

The character of Edmund closely resembles Eugene O'Neill's life. He is maintaining a hopeless existence with essentially no goals. Edmund is thinking about himself as an "unpleasant youngster" of his loved ones. As indicated by their father and senior sibling, he is the underlying driver of Mary's dependence on morphine. In his mom's view, he is an undesirable youngster. One can without much of a stretch investigate the uninvolved way of behaving of his mom about him from the underneath reference verse:

*"You were conceived apprehensive. Since I was so reluctant to bring you into this world"* (p.96).

He really regrets that this has the explanation that caused him to pour his heart into his mother's light. He sees

himself as a spectacular blunder, having been born into the world as a man. He claims that as a fish or an ocean bird, he would have been far more effective. For all intents and purposes, he considers himself to be a more intriguing person who never feels at home, who can never find a home, "who doesn't truly need and isn't quite wanted, who should be somewhat obsessed with death!"

Edmund has tuberculosis, for which his father sends him to a nearby expert in town, causing Jamie to complain about his father's grouchy personal behaviour by sending Edmund to a cheap and unskilled local specialist in town. He has objection because he is more concerned and worried about his younger brother's health and wants his father to consult a good physician in the city.

*Mary mutters, "How should Doctor Hardy counsel such a thing without conversing with me?"*

*"How dare your father let him in! What authority does he have? "Because he's, her child! In addition, he must look after Jamie!"* (3.1.97)

Edmund is additionally an alcoholic who dislikes his dad and sibling. He was unable to discover an authentic sense of reconciliation at home. The absence of adoration and consideration from guardians and his sibling's angry disposition are the fundamental variables affecting his character of Edmund.

### Blame Game

The innovative men are generally looking for relief and rest that is the reason nobody is prepared to take the weight of any responsibility. The innovative and cutting-edge men are each time looking for a kind of parting to take off from the significant burden of accountabilities, nobody is prepared to leave their usual range of familiarity and everybody is so occupied with reproaching and faulting

others and criticizing others for their disappointment. Being a piece of present-day writing, the play *Long Day's Journey into Night* has portrayed the target of an attempt at finger-pointing in an exceptionally tasteful manner. The father James Tyrone, an industrialist disapproved of an individual who is generally sought after for getting a high-profile financial status in the general public, because of this he is on numerous occasions constraining Jamie from escaping his bedroom and abandons his reformation however pointless life and find hold of a line of work and has proven himself a dependable individual from the general public and as well as of the family.

*JAMES: Once you have a potent toxin in you, you want to point the finger at everyone but not yourself! (3.1.58)*

James is more worried about the cash of his youngsters, as opposed to their social preparation that is the reason being an unsuccessful father he neglects to appropriately convey or address his kids. Then again Jamie is on numerous occasions faulting his father for his mother's dependence on morphine and for his more youthful sibling Edmund's continuing chronic weakness. As indicated by Jamie the main centre point of his father's life was to bring in cash because of which he was unable to offer a decent specialist to Edmund which bring about his most dreadfully terrible medical issue. Mary Tyrone is additionally of the vision that she lifts an extravagant liveliness for James Tyrone barely meet the cheerful wedded living, however, because of James Tyrone through aggressive disposition she was unable to try and get a quality time from her significant other that is the explanation on account of which she began morphine as an instrument to take off from the unpleasant recollections of her past which later on bring about long-lasting enslavement.

Mary says that she faults just herself. She swore after Eugene kicked the bucket that she couldn't have ever another child. She believes that she was to be faulted for his passing since she shouldn't have passed on him with her mom to go along with him out and about, in light of the fact that he composed convincing her he missed her and was like that desolate, "Jamie couldn't have ever been permitted, when he actually had measles, to go in the child's room."

Edmund believes particularly remorseful, in light of the fact that in his view, his introduction to the world carries distress and discouragement to his mom's life. He is thinking about himself explicitly and all the family for the most part answerable owing to Mary's circumstances. In his nature, he is conveying a sensation of empathy on side of his mom constantly.

This evident demarcation which his mother works around her is the most difficult thing for EDMUND to take. He imagines her using this as a bank of mist in which she misfortunes and hides herself.

*Deliberately, that is its damnation! He realizes that something in her does it intentionally - to get past their compass, to be freed of them, to fail to remember that they are alive! It's as though, notwithstanding cherishing them, she couldn't stand them! (4.1.84)*

In brief, not any individual from the Tyrone family is prepared to talk about liability as well as improve on account of household or community, preferably everybody is faulting one more party for their circumstance. This absence of obligation is the greatest reason for an attempt at finger-pointing and correspondence holes in the Tyrone family.

## **Financial Status and its Implications on Tyrone's Family**

Every single species in the globe, along with the rest of the world, is in a constant war for higher endurance against its competitor species. Humans are also struggling for a more prominent and higher financial standing in the general public in order to pursue a happier and better way of life. James Tyrone, the Tyrone family's patriarch and father, is frequently on the move to a solid monetary situation in the general public because of which he is a lot of worry about his work and cash as opposed to his significant other and youngsters which is the underlying driver of upset public activity of Tyrone's loved ones. Mary is a woman from privileged who lifts his dad's extravagant home in the wake of the wedding. One of the explanations for James Tyrone's awareness of achieving a standard financial status in the general public is James Tyrone's awareness of acquiring a standard financial standing in the public at large.

*MARY: "In a genuine home one is rarely desolate. You fail to remember I know as a matter of fact what a house is like. I surrendered one to wed you-my dad's home." (2.2.3)*

She feels, The Chatfields, as well as others like her, stand on account of any object. She indicates, they live in respectable, comfortable houses where they are not humiliated. They have partners with whom they interact and who interact with them. They don't want to split relationships with everyone.

*"I don't think they have anything to do with them. I've always loathed this place and everyone who lives here." (1.1.192)*

Marrying the only female in the house is most miserable as she has always been treated wrong and valueless. James Tyron has never put effort to put things right. For James Tyron, the major concern has

never been his family life. Marry, due to her disturbed married life and negation on her husband's part, has never felt at ease in her own house. As the text depicts Marry's situation;

*"I'd be ashamed if they walked through the door." (1.1.194)*

*"Somebody other than the employees - that idiotic Cathleen!" MARY wishes she had somewhere she might go apart for a day, or simply in an evening, with a female companion with anyone she can chat - not about anything serious, but laugh also say as well as disremember not for long - (1.1.209)*

James Tyrone is a depiction of a normal present-day man each time mentally detained befitting delays the path to steady as well as solid conservative group achievement.

## **Conclusion**

"Long Day's Journey into Night," a self-portrait by Eugene O'Neill, examines issues created by the industrialist American community and how they affect daily life. One of the primary focuses of the study is on a father's financial situation and how it affects his behaviour. The research also looks into how a father communicates with his significant other and children, as well as their own personal conduct standards in light of their parents' personality. The weaknesses of the Industrialist community, as well as the concept of "The American Dream," are too discussed in the planned research. In a nutshell, the article does a type of examination of distinctly American cultural viewpoints.

Eugene O'Neill's play Long Day's Journey into Night has received the greatest attention from numerous analysts and professionals. Eugene O'Neill's work has received a great deal of scholarly examination, both positive and

negative, from a variety of abstract personalities.

*"One of the most heartbreaking plays I've ever seen."* T.S. Eliot

In one of his Long Day's Journey into Night essays published in The Guardian" in 2018, Mark Fisher elaborates on the

meeting of the mountains. It is in this meeting mountain portrays the scenes "four misfortunes in a single show". As indicated by him, the show is notable for its four unique characters which are not quite the same as one another in each perspective to upgrade the quintessence of the play.

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