

Brooklyn: Transformation Of Identity And Emotions

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ABSTRACT

Our contemporary societies are growing more cosmopolitan, with people from many cultural origins coming together and expected to coexist despite having quite different values, customs, manners and standards. The rising diversity of today's society makes it more difficult than ever to define oneself. Migrations, Inventions, Modernization, and Globalisation are examples of phenomena that alter people's sense of cultural self-awareness as well as how they see their environment and other cultures. The subject of immigrant life, conflicting emotions, responsibilities and its connection to identity and a feeling of belonging is a topic that is brought up in multicultural works, particularly in the novel and its film adaptation that serve as representational mediums, such as Brooklyn. Brooklyn is a 2015 British- Canadian –Irish romantic drama film directed by John Crowley and written by Nick Hornby, based in Colm Toibin's 2009 novel Brooklyn of the same name. The protagonist of this, Eilis Lacey, leaves Ireland in search of better chances in Brooklyn. She makes the decision to relocate to Brooklyn as soon as the church allows it. She has an Italian-American boyfriend and works at the Department Store while residing in Brooklyn. But due of her sister's passing; Eilis has to go back to Ireland. Her boyfriend asks her to marry him in City Hall without telling anyone before she leaves for Ireland. She intends to stay for a moment when she first gets back, but she loves living in Ireland and has no intention of going back to Brooklyn. After experiencing a family crisis at home, Eilis is forced to choose between the old and the new, the past and the future.

Key Words: Immigration, Identity, Brooklyn, Transformation and Culture.

BROOKLYN: A PLACE OF RENEWAL

Renowned Irish writer Colm Tóibín is mostly recognized for his books and journalism pieces. One of his best-selling novels, Brooklyn, was made into a blockbuster movie in 2015 that made him very well-known. Brooklyn is a really interesting and touching historical novel. Since its 2009 release, it has grown to be one of the author's most well-known pieces. The book has been translated into 22 languages. Brooklyn perfectly captures the spirit and way of life of Irish people in the middle of the 20th century. It describes the financial difficulties that many families encountered, the forced relocations, and the loss of cultural identity following a migration overseas. Nick Hornby made an adaption of Brooklyn into a movie in 2015.

It was directed by John Crowley and starred the Oscar nominee Saoirse Ronan. The movie received nominations for a Golden Globes, six British Academy Film Awards, three Academy Awards, and three Oscars. In Brooklyn, Eilis Lacey a young woman who leaves her little Irish town for Brooklyn, New York as opportunities are scarce in rural Ireland, particularly for young woman like Eilis. There, she finds employment, a brighter future, and love Tony, Italian-American plumber. She returns to Ireland due to a family tragedy and settles into her old town, only to be courted by the eligible Jim. Eilis is faced with a terrible dilemma - a heartbreaking choice between two men and two countries as she keeps putting off her return to America.

INTRODUCTION

It depicts the story of a young Irish woman named Eilis Lacey who lives in the small town of Enniscorthy. She is the main character; a young immigrant from Ireland making her way through Brooklyn in the 1950s. The novel's environment has a significant role in forming the plot and the characters. The majority of the novel takes place in Brooklyn where Eilis immigrates to in order to find work for better life and future. She is the main character, a young Irish immigrant finding her way through Brooklyn in the 1950s. The novel's atmosphere has a significant role in forming the plot and the characters. The greater portion of the novel is set in Brooklyn, where Eilis moves

to seek employment for a better life and future. The stark contrast between the peaceful small town of Enniscorthy and the busy, energetic city of Brooklyn serves to emphasize the cultural distinctions between Ireland and the United States. The locale further emphasizes the issue of homesickness as Eilis finds it difficult to adapt to life in a foreign land and yearns for the safe confines of her native homeland. Another notable and one of the most significant is Father Flood, a Catholic Priest who helped Eilis adjust to life in Brooklyn and serves as a mentor and confidant for her. Eilis fell in love with Tony Fiorello, a young Italian American man and becomes a companion and an important part of her life in Brooklyn. In her letter, she disclosed that Tony has given her a sense of belonging here. She didn't have it before she met him.

The plot of the novel follows Eilis's journey as she leaves her hometown and family behind in order to start a new and prosperous life in Brooklyn. At onset she struggled to adjust to the new culture and the fast – paced life of the city. However, she eventually finds a job, makes friends and begins to build a new journey for herself. Just when it seems like things are finally starting to come together for her and she is adopting the new culture and the new life, she receives bad news about her sister's death and she is forced to return home to Ireland. She is torn between her love for her family and her new found sense of independence and the life she has built for herself in the United States. Finally, she decides to return to Brooklyn where she reunites with Tony and begins to build a new life for herself once again. Overall, Brooklyn is a poignant and moving story about love, loss and the search for identity. It revolves around homesickness and the struggles of immigrants as they try to find their place in a new country. Colm Toibin's writing is evocative and emotionally resonant and the novel is a powerful and poignant exploration of the human experience.

STATE OF THE ECONOMY IN THE 1950s

The Irish have a long history of frequent migration. Large populations of Irish people have left their homeland in search of a better life for themselves, even before Irish independence. The 1950s, labelled "the decade of the doom and gloom," Ireland was experiencing a fall in social issues and productivity as well as an economic downturn. Ireland was lagging behind the Europe in terms of strong and consistent growth. The traditional backbone of the economy, agriculture employed two-fifths of the working population at the time. However, agricultural output was extremely low, and farmers were unable to finance modernization due to the crisis.

The lack of effort put into creating new industries was one of the other major issues. The Irish industry output was drooping and the industry was in a condition of stagnation. Because of their inefficiencies and lack of profitability, its companies were unable to compete with others. The industry as a whole was collapsing. There weren't many people with access to schooling. The majority of the population did not complete their education, which negatively affected their economy as well. There were not enough educated workers in Ireland. Those who did have schooling, however, also had difficulty finding employment at the same time. For the young people, coming of age that only meant one thing: they had to leave. They were unable to find stable work, a comfortable lifestyle, or a reliable source of money in Ireland. They understood that going across the ocean was the only way to guarantee all of those things. During the 1950s, three of every five Irish - born and raised children left the country due to the economic condition.

HOME AND IDENTITY – INTERTWINED

One of the main themes of the novel is identity and how to locate one's place of residence. The scary and unsettling experience that Eilis goes through when she is ripped away from the location, she believed she would call home for the rest of her life. For a large portion of the book, she is terribly homesick, feeling as though her identity has been erased and she does not belong. By forming connections within the community, she establishes a second home for herself in a strange city by getting to know Brooklyn and becoming recognised there. But she feels like two different individuals and is torn when she has to choose between these two homes. The question remains unanswered by Eilis throughout the novel, maybe due to her inability to answer the question about herself.

Identity and environment are intertwined in this novel. This undoubtedly serves as a contrast to Eilis desire to move to America. Her sense of self is uprooted by the loss of her hometown, and she has to navigate her new community in order to restore it. Eilis frequently accomplishes this by modeling herself after her sister Rose, whom she finds most admirable. Eilis succeeds in gaining confidence and developing a more positive self-image. However, Eilis is also a passive spectator who is happy to let other people make decisions that could change her life. What she consistently lacks in the seems to be a solid sense of self that is unaffected by her surroundings, one that decides what she values most and makes decisions based on those values. By the novel's end, Eilis's sense of identity remains mostly unsolved, much like the issue of where she belongs.

SELF IDENTITY

Eilis' Conflicts: Exiled in My Own Land and Foreign Land

Brooklyn by Colm Toibin uses various techniques to examine the concepts and challenges around the issue of "self-identity." Another significant component of the novel is the idea of "migration." We follow Eilis as she undergoes an identity makeover throughout the novel. The maturation of Eilis is influenced by migration. The

effects of Eilis's interactions with other characters are evident. Through the perspectives of numerous people, the novel examines the impact of different characters. Eilis's development as a person has undoubtedly been greatly impacted by the duties and expectations that were placed on her as a young woman. Toibin interprets "self-identity" and illustrates many concepts using additional main and supporting characters. The first phase in Eilis' transformation of identity was her move to a bustling, fast-paced city. Eilis's boat voyage represents her liberation from Enniscorthy's confining surroundings. Toibin foreshadowed Eilis' grief when she first moves to Brooklyn and experiences severe homesickness by using the "sick scene." Georgina took on the role of a mentor in a way, taking over Rose's sisterly responsibilities. By contrasting Eilis with a figure as strong-minded like Georgina, the reader is made aware of Eilis. Georgina serves as a symbol for the change from serene, sedate Enniscorthy to bustling, vibrant New York, and Toibin uses her to hint at what Eilis might become. Other migration-related symbols appear throughout the novel, such as Mr. Rosenblum, who immigrated to America following the Holocaust. Mr. Rosenblum and Eilis are similar in that she was compelled to relocate to America, whereas he was compelled to leave his hometown. Another representation of Eilis' loneliness and homesickness is Mr. Rosenblum. Brooklyn is a migratory emblem in itself. It changes every day. Many people arrive from different set of backgrounds and cultures. Toibin has selected this particular New York borough because of its diverse population. The novel's central theme is migration, which has a lot in common with the theme of "self-identity."

Eilis's beliefs, expectations, opinions, and values are influenced by her relationships with various personalities. Her relationship with Tony provided her with insight and numerous more ways to assist her get over her homesickness, pulling her out of the sheltered mindset she was acquainted to. Eilis's affection for him allowed her to accept Brooklyn as her home, which caused a psychological shift in her which is evident in the baseball scene as Eilis starts to blend in with American society. "She aspired to be involved in every aspect as much as possible. "She changed because of the sense of community that grew as their connection deepened. Rose played a major role in influencing Eilis, who felt dissatisfied without her approval, even though she was not in many of the scenes. Eilis feels cautious while portraying Tony's background and line of work in her letter to Rose. Rose was a big role model for Eilis, and by the end of the novel, it's clear that Eilis had adopted more of Rose's clothing and showed self-assurance. Eilis's relationships with other characters influence her identity in a variety of ways. The novel examines the concept of identity development and illustrates the influential impact on powerful individuals. Eilis identifies as a young woman based on the expectations that are put on her. Given her social upbringing and the fact that Rose passed away, Eilis was expected to care for their mother.

Eilis was left to choose between her old life and her new life in New York as a result. Again, Eilis is torn between the two worlds she lives in, between desire to live freely in the new world and the duty she has to her culture and ancestors. She even tells Tony, her boyfriend that "I have no idea if I have a home anymore. "Her family's needs put her newly acquired independence to scrutiny. Toibin implies that Eilis would have to return home and take care of her mother as Rose's passing to highlight the obligations placed on women in the 1950s. Eilis was not given much input in the decision to migrate to America; it was something she had to do. Similar to this, she returned to Enniscorthy out of obligation. Because of her religious upbringing, Eilis is not allowed to have sex before marriage. She must act appropriately and with respect. After her sexual encounter with Tony, Eilis has changed; she is no longer as naive. Eilis' identity and bond with Tony are profoundly affected by this. He seemed more at ease, more satisfied to remain silent, and less inclined to make jokes or try to impress her, according to her. In order to further illustrate how Eilis changed from a timid young girl to a self-assured and composed adult, Toibin employed the sex scene. One of the main factors in Eilis's identity development was the expectations her family, religion, and society imposed on her. Other characters in the story also delve into the issue of self-identity. Toibin meticulously portray other characters' identities without giving away too much at the wrong moments. Eilis mother is not given first name. This character hasn't been shown well and developed much enough by Toibin to show the reader that she shouldn't be considered the main character. It is challenging to feel a great deal of empathy for her loneliness and grief because of her lack of identity. Additionally, Miss Fortini is employed to examine the concepts of secrecy and identity. The "changing room" scene examines the concept of being unable to communicate certain aspects of your identity. Eilis knew there was something obvious about the way she stood and looked at her that she would never be able to tell anyone about. Because of his sexual orientation, Toibin's identity is also reflected in this encounter with Miss Fortini. He might be examining the challenges faced by homosexuals in the 1950s and the stigmatizing society they would encounter.

Identity-related concepts are also interpreted via the lens of Jim Farrell. He was strongly at odds with Tony in many respects. He was born into a sort of legacy, but Tony had to work hard and gain respect. Jim Farrell serves as a metaphor for Eilis' life as it would have been if she had never left the small, restrictive town of Enniscorthy, and how her identity would have stayed glued to her surroundings, much like Jim's. We are able to understand identity through these personalities in ways that go beyond Eilis's limited perspective.

CONCLUSION

Eilis Lacey travels to America in quest of better employment prospects. At the very beginning of the novel, she is smart and charming, but she is also innocent and inexperienced about the outside world's ways. She struggles with her sense of identity even after moving to America and acquiring knowledge and sophistication. Eilis's journey is not only physical but also deeply personal, involving a constant negotiation between her Irish heritage and her new American identity. This cultural duality explores how immigrants often straddle two worlds, struggling to find a sense of belonging in both. In Brooklyn, Eilis must adapt to new social norms, customs and expectations. Her interactions with her Italian- American boyfriend, Tony and the broader American community illustrate the cultural adjustments she must make.

Yet, her Irish roots remain a significant part of her identity, influencing her values, behaviors, and decisions. Toibin captures this duality with sensitivity, showing how Eilis's identity is shaped by both her past and her present. The concept of home is intricately tied to the theme of identity. Throughout the novel, Eilis grapples with where she truly belongs. Is home the place of her birth, with its familiar traditions and loved ones, or is it the new place where she has the potential to build a future? Eilis's return to Ireland after the death of her sister Rose brings this question to the forefront. Back in Enniscorthy, she feels the pull of her old life, the comfort of familiarity, and the expectations of her family and community. However, her experiences in Brooklyn have changed her, complicating her sense of belonging. This tension between two homes and identities underscores the immigrant's perpetual search for a place to truly belong.

Particularly when it comes to romance, she frequently struggles to comprehend and communicate her own sentiments to other people. Most of the time she feels, hesitant around Tony and when she reconnects with Jim Farrell, she starts to doubt if she was ever truly in love with Tony. Because of her lack of self-awareness and indecisiveness, she frequently lets other people make crucial decisions for her, as shown by the time Miss Kelly blackmailed her and made her return to the United States. The novel concludes with these struggles remain unresolved.

Undoubtedly, Eilis gender presented some challenges for her as a female immigrant in the 1950s. Eilis and her sister feel accountable for taking care of their ageing mother, and this has an impact on their destinies. Even though Eilis doesn't feel ready for marriage and a family, she feels pressured to want those things. Without her entire community looking on and holding her completely responsible for the deed, Eilis is unable to explore her sexuality. However, the novel also shows women empowering one another and developing relationships that enable them to overcome obstacles more skillfully. There were many individuals who were concerned about Eilis's well-being and assisted her in starting a new life in America, including Rose, Georgina, Mrs. Kehoe, Miss Fortini, and Patty. She found a substitute family and a priceless network of support in them. Furthermore, the novel fully accepts the relationships that women have with one another. Hairstyles, makeup, and attire serve as identifiers and points of connection. Makeovers are opportunities for women to bond. The emphasis in Brooklyn is on empowering women to empower one another and on following the path of one such woman, rather than on the oppression of women.

Eilis' choice at the novel's conclusion captures her sense of obligation and identifies her as the person she has become, not as the person she was in her former life. The ending leaves the reader feeling let down. The reader is left with several loose ends, so they can speculate as to what might have happened next. Eilis's second departure from Enniscorthy had a profound impact on her since it ended her chances of reuniting with Jim and her family. Toibin employs the ending in a way that underlines Eilis lack of control in spite of her personal development. The novel's four stages examine "self-identity" in connection to the themes of migration, relationships, and responsibility.

FROM SCRIPT TO SCREEN JOURNEY

Comparison and Contrast

While the movie adaptation focuses on visual narrative and performances to depict the central character's journey, the novel Brooklyn provides a deeper investigation of Eilis's inner world, thoughts, and feelings. Immigration, identity, and belonging are subjects that are explored in both the text and the movie, although the novel goes further into the subtleties of these subjects through an abundance of narrative detail. While the movie concentrates more intently on Eilis's romantic connections and personal development, the novel gives supporting characters more character development and delves further into their ties with her. The novel uses descriptive language to immerse readers into the story's settings and emotions, while the film adaptation uses visual clues and cinematography to create a cinematic experience.

Thus, Colm Tóibín crafts a paradoxically immobile emigration story: Eilis's migration and initiatory process can be viewed as static, as she loses her sense of self rather than finding a way to reconcile her two physical and cultural identities. This analysis conflicts with the 2015 cinematic movie adaptation of the novel by John Crowley. Although the movie generally sticks to Brooklyn's plot, Eilis's character development and the resolution deviate from the novel. In fact, Saoirse Ronan's character, the protagonist, gradually acquires liberty and mastery over her life. In contrast to the novel, the movie portrays Eilis as a young lady who, in the end, succeeds in approaching

Miss Kelly and claiming to be Tony's wife. The conclusion of the story also assumes a new significance in the movie: unlike Toibin's version, which leaves Eilis's decision unclear, Eilis is now self-assured enough to choose her own path and returns to Tony out of love.

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