

Tribhuvan University

Uncanny Relation in William's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
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Requirements of the Degree of Masters of Arts in English

by

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled
“Uncanny Relation in Tennessee Williams *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*” is my own original
work carried out as a Master’s student at the Department of English at Ratna Rajya
Laxmi Campus to the extent that assistance from others in the thesis
paper’s design and conception or in presentation style and
linguistic expression are fully acknowledged.
All sources for the thesis paper have been fully and properly cited. It contains no
material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of
any other degree at Tribhuvan University or any other educational
institution, except where due acknowledgement is made
in the thesis.

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Letter of Approval

This research work entitled *Uncanny Relation in Williams's Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, submitted to the Department of English Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus by Mangala Devi Timilsina, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This research work explores homosexuality demonstrated by Brick and Skipper. The anti hero of the play Brick is favorite son of Big Daddy and Big Mama. He represents the mid – twentieth century American Society. From his college life Brick meets with Skipper. Latter on both of them work in a same place as football player. They both live together for the purpose of playing game. Through this they became so closer and they like each other.

In order to raise the issue of homosexuality, the researcher draws idea from the homosexual thinkers like Michel Foucault, Eve Sedgwick, and Judith Butler.

The issue that the researcher arises in this research work is the issue of homosexuality in which the then American society depicts the mid-twentieth century American's attitude towards homosexuality. It means the then American society does not give chance to homosexuals to open in the society. The major character Brick is repressing his desire but he wants to come with his identity in the society if it allows him. Mr. Skipper is the scapegoat of homosexuality where he loses his life for the purpose of Brick's rejection.

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Uncanny Relation in William's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Tennessee Williams was born on March 26, 1911, in Columbus, Mississippi. After college, he moved to New Orleans a city that would inspire much of his writing. On March 31, 1945, his play, *The Glass Menagerie*, opened on Board way and two years later *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* earned Williams Pulitzer Prize. Many of Williams play have been adapted to film starring screen greats like Marlon Brando and Elizabeth Taylor.

The play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* opens with the birthday party of Big Daddy. All family members gather to celebrate Big Daddy's birthday. On the previous evening Big Daddy's son Brick breaks his leg while trying to jump hurdles at school track. His wife Margret scolds him for his foolish behavior and his behavior of drinking alcohol regularly. But Brick does not seem to be paying much attention to the conversation however, Margret continues on talking with him. She talks Brick about Big Daddy's disease. She wants to get Big Daddy's property. But Brick does not show his concern towards his Daddy's property. Brick's heart is broken when his friend skipper was dead. He has refused to sleep with Maggie when his friend Skipper was died. But Maggie wants to sleep with him because she wants child.

Maggie feels urgent to have a baby because she needs to produce an heir. Big Daddy is dying of cancer but he has not been told yet. Maggie faces poverty in her life. That's why she wants to make her future secure by getting Big Daddy's property. Brick does not care anything but liquor. He says clearly that "he is disgusted by Maggie and completely ignores everything she has to say (10)". When Maggie and Skipper love to one another in place of Brick then after Skipper, began to self-destruct and soon die. That is also Brick turned to liquor.

Instead of Big Daddy and Big Mama every family members know that Big Daddy has cancer. But Gooper and Mae plan to tell truth to Big Mama. After wishing Big Daddy's birthday, other members left the hall, only the old couple is left alone there. Big Daddy does not believe to Big Mama that she loves him. After some discussion Big Daddy sends Big Mama to her place and wants to talk to Brick secretly. But his son Brick is not interested to talk him. He tries to know why he became alcoholic after the death of Skipper. When Big Daddy raises the issue of Skipper Brick became speechless he feels uncomfortable. Then after he tells to Big Daddy the incident happen between Maggie and Skipper. He tells only half of the story. Big Daddy wants to know all stories but Brick left the room suddenly. At last Big Daddy left the room too.

When they leave the room the rest of the family members enter. Doctor Burge also comes and tells to Big Mama that Big Daddy has Cancer but Big Mama refuses to believe in his word at first. Mae and Gooper produce legal papers that would establish a will favorable to their interest. They try to convince Big Mama that this arrangement is for the best due to Brick's alcoholism and Maggie's childless. While listen this Maggie announces that she and Brick are going to have a child but Mae and Gooper do not believe her. Only Big Mama is so happy while listening the good news about Maggie. Then she leaves hall to tell Big Daddy. Maggie and Brick are left alone in the hall. Brick says that she is very bold to make that lie but Maggie intends to turn lie into truth.

This research explores the same sex attraction towards the main character, Brick in Tennessee William's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The play represents the mid-twentieth century problem of homosexuality in America. Brick was the victim of that contemporary society turns to alcoholic when skipper is dead. The play concentrates

on the plight of Brick whose life and difficulties symbolizes the crisis of mid-twentieth century homosexual culture.

Edmund Bergler on his text *Homosexuality: Disease or Way of Life* exemplifies the medical field's view of homosexuality during the mid-twentieth century. Bergler believes that homosexuality is not a way of life, but rather a "neurotic disease in which extremely severe and unavoidable self-damaging tendencies engulf the whole personality" (35). He asserts that heterosexuality is caused by an "unsolved masochistic conflict with the mother of earliest infancy" (291). Bergler states and stresses that homosexuality can be cured because it is not an innate characteristic, but rather a psychological disease. Berger's theories differ from his contemporaries who share his opinion because he urged that homosexuality should be publicized rather than silence.

Involving the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender LGBT peoples and cultures around the world, LGBT history dates back to the first recorded instance of same-sex love and sexuality of ancient civilizations. Throughout the history the gay, lesbian and bisexual subculture are often the only place where gender-variant people is socially accepted in the gender role they feel they belong to. This is happened during the time when legal or medical transitioning was almost impossible. This acceptance has had a complex history. Like the wider world, the gay community in the western societies does not generally distinguish between sex and gender identity until the 1970s. Today, members of the transgender community often continue to struggle to remain part of the same movement as lesbian, gay and bisexual citizens. And they also want to be included in rights protections... Although there are discrimination in the society for LGBT in these past years, but there will be possibility for equality in the future.

Lois Tyson in her book *Critical Theory Today* forwards about lesbianism as, the word 'lesbian' can be referring to a woman's identity to desire or to romantic or sexual activity between women (322). The word lesbian is also used to express sexual behavior regardless of sexual orientation. The concept of "lesbian", to differentiate women with a shared sexual orientation, is a 20th century construct. Throughout history, women have not had the same freedom or independence to pursue homosexual relationship as men. But they have not got harsh punishment as homosexual men in some societies. Instead, lesbian relationship has often been regarded as harmless and in comparable to homosexual ones the participants attempt to assert privileges traditionally enjoyed by men. As a result, little in history is documented to give an accurate description of how female homosexuality is expressed. Sexologist in the late 19th century began to categorize and describe homosexual behavior as lack of knowledge about homosexuality. They distinguish lesbians as women who do not adhere to female gender roles and also tell them mentally ill. In women's history and sexuality in the 20th century, the definition of lesbian broadened, sparking. Some women who engage in same-sex sexual activity may reject not only identifying as lesbian but as bisexual as well. While other women self-identifying as lesbians. Political conditions and social attitude also affect the formation of lesbian relationships and families in open.

James Taylor and Jack Francis in their journal view about bisexuality as a romantic attraction, sexual attraction, towards both males and females or it is a romantic or sexual attraction to people of any sex or gender identity (23). This latter aspect is sometimes alternatives termed pan sexuality. The term Pan Sexuality is originated along with psychologist Sigmund Freud, who according to live science. It believes that all human behavior is motivated in one way or another by the sex

instinct.”Freud is criticized for this theory, which his pesos daubes pansexualism” (60). The term bisexuality is mainly used in the context of human feelings towards both men and women. This concept is also one of the three main classifications of sexual orientation along with heterosexuality and homosexuality.

The bisexual identity does not necessarily equate to equal sexual attraction to both sexes. Commonly, people who have a distinct but exclusive sexual preference for one sex over the other also identify themselves as bisexual. Sexual attraction, behavior and identity may also be incongruent, as a sexual attraction some individuals identify themselves as heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual without having has any sexual experience. Others have had homosexual experience but do not consider themselves to be gay, lesbian or bisexual. Likewise, self-identified gay or lesbian individuals may occasionally sexual interact with members of the opposite sex but do not identify as bisexual. Some sources states that bisexuality encompasses romantic or sexual attraction to all gender identities. It is to rendering it’s interchangeable with pan sexuality. The concept of pan sexuality deliberately rejects the gender binary. It means the notion of two genders have indeed of specific sexual orientations. Pansexual people are open to relationships with people who do not identify as strictly men or women.

Cristan Williams in his journal *Transgender Studies* forwards about transsexual as, it is introduced to English in 1949 by David Oliver Caldwell and popularized by Harry Benjamin in 1966. Around the same time transgender has coined and begun to be popularized. Since the 1990, transgender has generally been used to describe the subset of transgender people. Transgender people are people who have gender expressions that differ from their assigned sex (55). Transgender people sometimes call transsexual if they desire medical assistance to transsexual if they

desire medical transition from one sex to another. Transgender is also an umbrella term; it may include people who are not exclusively masculine or feminine. Many transgender people experience gender dysphoria, and some seek medical treatment such as hormone replacement therapy, sex reassignment surgery or psychotherapy. The term Trans man refers to a man who has transitioned from female to a man to male. And Trans women refer to women who have transitioned from male to female. Transgender people may meet the criteria for a diagnosis of gender identity disorder causes distress or disability. This distress is referred to as gender dysphoria or inability to work and form healthy relationships with others. This diagnosis is often misinterpreted as implying that transgender people suffer from GID.

Tyson in her book *Critical Theory Today* views about gay as a term that primarily refers to a homosexual person or the trait of being homosexual (329). The term is used as a reference to homosexuality may date as early as the late 19th century but its use gradually increased in the 20th century. Sexual relations between men, or even just the sexual desire of one man for another, are gradually accepted criteria of gayness in white middle-class today. Similarly in the drama *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, the main character Brick has same sex attraction towards his friend Skipper. He is not able to express his love toward Skipper. That's why he is throwing his life away in drink. The play much focused on the Brick's naughty behavior, his drinking habit and his concern for truth on mendacity. Brick is kind, who has gone astray when his friend Skipper has died. His habit of alcoholism makes him weak to manage the estate and unable to assume his father's position. The following dialogue by Big Daddy shows his disagreement with his son's increasing alcoholic behaviors'.

Brick: This! –liquor...

Big Daddy: That's not living, that's dodging away from life.

Brick: I want to dodge away from it.

Big Daddy: Then why don't you kill yourself, man?

Brick: I like to drink... (58).

The core focus of the project is on Brick's homosexual personality that was secret. He has married with Maggie in a hurry just to prove that he is not the homosexual. But his father opposes and says; "Wipe her kiss off your mouth like she'd spit on you" (61). He is passive in his heterosexual relationship with Maggie. Maggie doubts that he is passive and indifferent because of his hangover of his homosexual relation and yearning for Skipper.

There is same sex attraction within people from birth. When they grow of they saw the society is accepting heterosexual behavior and rejecting homosexual one. That's why they are compelled to ignore homosexuality and accept heterosexuality because of social norms and values. They also think that if they accept homosexuality, society will hate them so they hide their identity. Moreover, Slavoj Zizek in his text *The Melancholic Double Blind* argues about sexuality "the root cause of melancholic is to accept heterosexual norm by foreclosing homosexual desire" (589). Zizek wants to state that peoples are depressed because they are not able to choose their partner according to their desire. In this play also Brick is depressed because of his unfulfilled love towards Skipper. But when Skipper makes a call, he openly proposes to Brick to leave his wife and join him. If he fully loves his wife and enjoys sex with her, he would say no to Skipper and if he hates it and also had courage to face the society. This means that Brick is a homosexual, but he wanted to play both roles homosexual and heterosexual. He can compromise neither with his social image nor his platonic ideal. He represents the homosexual personality of the era.

Homosexuality is considered an uncomfortable issue for the discussion. It's due to the heterosexual society; homosexual desire must be repressed. For instance the main character, Brick in the novel keeps his homosexual desire secret. As a result the family harmony is broken down. Similarly, Judith Butler, one of the queer theorist says; "homosexuality is marginalized and made unnatural, by stressing extent to which the ostensible normativity of heterosexuality is based on the suppression and denial of same-sex desires and relationships" (264). Butler views, the homosexual should be respect and accepts as the natural members of the society. And accept them that they come with the special purpose in the society rather marginalize them. People of the society give them chance do new things for the welfare of the society.

In the society people have their own sexual identity, some are homosexual and some are heterosexual. But homosexuals are not shown their identity openly in the society. They want to perform heterosexual behavior in the society because they have fear that society misrepresents them. In the play Brick is homosexual in nature but he does not tell he is homosexual. Instead of telling truth he is lying his father about his felling. He marginalizes his desire and just tries to perform as heterosexual in the society by marrying with Margret. Similarly Eve Sedgwick says; "heterosexual gender performances depends upon the act of excluding and marginalizing homosexual ones" (88). According to Sedgwick people can perform their heterosexual role by hiding homosexual desire. They marginalize their identity and try to be a normal people in the society.

The then American contemporary society does not treat homosexual as a normal people. People think that they have some illness. They do not behave homosexual as a normal people. They think that they are the burden of the society. The research also brings the ideas from Lois Tyson's *Critical Theory Today*, where essentialist and

constructionist attack homosexuality as: “gay people are born sick (or evil); gay people are sick (or evil) products of sick (or evil) environment” (321). According to Tyson critics like essentialist and constructionist also attack to the homosexuals. They misrepresent homosexuals as abnormal people they say that they are by birth sick, not only this they represent homosexual as evil person in the society (321).

Sexuality and Queer Studies

Tyson in her Book *Critical Theory Today* forwards about queer as an umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities that are not heterosexual. Queer is used by those who reject traditional gender, identities in academic disciplines. It also expands its focus to encompass any kind of sexual activity or identity that falls into normative and deviant categories. Heterosexual relationship depends upon social norms and values. Heterosexual society sees homosexual relationship as odd one (320).

According to Tyson queer is boarder term which included gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual. And queer is called to those who reject traditional gender identities. It is also deviant form of the traditional norms and values.

In addition, he states about sexuality as socially constructed rather than inborn. It bases on the way in which sexuality is defined by the culture in which we live. We can see the examples of the social construction of sexuality earlier, when we discuss ancient Athens, where sexual categories is based on caste system that does not differentiate between male and female. It also refers to a person’s habits and preferences in terms of sexual behavior and desire. There are as many individual expressions of sexuality as there are individual preferences for dress or music. Some people may experience confusion or distress regarding some aspects of their sexual behavior and seek help from a license mental health professional. An individual’s personal definition of sexuality may include their feelings of attraction towards others,

how they choose to be intimate with others, feelings relating to body image and personal values (222). While analyzing Tyson's view sexuality is not as born rather it is socially constructed. It is also based on the culture where we grown up or live. People have get up according to their choice, they also listen music as their wish.

Furthermore to recognize the complication of queer analysis, it is important to understand queer theorizing, Eve Sedgwick's "axiomatic", and a seminal work in queer. She further explains that: the primary challenge posted by queer theory is hegemonic understanding of the relations between identity, sex, gender and sexuality. Where western culture has attempted to ossify these relations in the name of patriarchy, and feminism has tended to want to reconfigure them while preserving their conventional descriptive force, queer theory politicizes sex, gender and sexuality in a way that servers the notion of identity from any stable reference points. In this way queerness resist the regimes... of measuring, categorizing and knowing the truth of sexual orientation (4). According to Sedgwick queer theory rejects the regime of categorization. Queer theory rejects regimes of categorization and asserts that gender and sexuality lack stability, therefore reading with a queer lens means approaching a text with the allowance that the characters might resist the heteronormative sexual categorization entirely heteronormativ culture.

Expanding on this explanation, queer theorist Annemarie Jagose states, about queer in her text *Queer Theory: An Introduction*, it is widely perceived as calling into question conventional understanding of sexual identity by deconstructing the categories, oppositions and that sustain them" (97). Therefore, to examine literature though a queer lens means a reader needs to discard those conventional lenses of understanding. Sexual identity cannot understand though hegemonic conceptualizations because queer resists hegemonic order. Additionally, sexuality

should not get discuss though western feminist perspective because these perspective continue to adhere to conventional description even as they try to reconfigure them.

Queer theory examines the constitutive discourses of homosexuality developed in the last century in order to place “queer” in its historical context. Lisa Michelle in her text *The Evolution of the Medical Definition of Homosexuality* explains about the definition of homosexuals on time to time. During the first half of the nineteenth century a number of individuals in Europe began to study homosexuality scientifically. The theories develop during this time suggest that homosexuality is a disease and these theories influences how homosexuality is regarded by the scientific community until well past the late twentieth century. It was not until the late twentieth century that there is a paradigms shift in the science of psychiatry and medicine regarding the pathology of homosexuality.

In the early twentieth century, psychiatrists consider homosexuality a disease that could be cured though psychotherapy and treatment options were assessed, yet gradually, theories of a hormonal and genetic origin of homosexuality arose and became accepted. This paradigm shift impact the political and social climates of the United States, while at the same time: these outside influences also affected science. In 1973 the American psychiatric association voted to remove homosexuality from the list of mental disorders and patient’s practicing homosexuality is not longer treated as if it is a disease. Thus, since its conception in the early nineteenth century, the scientific definition of homosexuality has greatly evolved. Queer theory defines individual’s sexuality as a fluid, fragmented, dynamic collectivity of possible sexualities. Our sexuality may be different at difference times over the course of our lives or even at different times over the course of a week because sexuality is a dynamic range of desire.

Furthermore Ronald Bayer in his text *Homosexuality and American Psychiatry* explains about homosexual's history and their demonstration in the society to behave as a normal member in the society. Bayer focuses primarily on the political aspects regarding homosexuality and stresses that he "does not view homosexuality as a disease but rather a political question" (5). For example, psychiatrists are responsible for explaining homosexuals' non- normative behaviors. The psychiatric responses to interpreting homosexuals preferred to be thought of as diseased rather than as criminals for having same sex relation. However, the 1960s brought about a change of attitude on a part of the homosexual community, which no longer accepted its alternative sexuality as a disease. Through protest and demonstration homosexual is success in their battle over the prevailing homosexual disease theory. According to Bayer, at past homosexuals are views as sick patient and it should be cured. But latter its concept is changed. This is because of homosexual's protection against it.

The article *Critical Perspectives of Homosexuals* by Nick Rumens underscores the utility of queer theory to accounting sexuality research. The problem lies in sexuality because of heteronormative bias within the accounting studies goes unchallenged that posits heterosexuality as a normative standard by which other sexuality are judged and found wanting. It is argued that queer theory can enable accounting scholars to disrupt heteronormativity, destabilizes essentialist notion sexuality as fixed properties of individuals and thus advance the study of sexuality within accounting (65). According to Rumens there is biased nature towards homosexuals in the society. People behave homosexuals as abnormal people. They do not accept them as a member of the society. Society only accepts heterosexual culture that's why they behave differently to homosexuals and heterosexuals. So that queer theory advocates about the right of homosexuality.

Furthermore Foucault on his text *The History of Sexuality* states the theory of rejection of sexual repression, the repressive hypothesis. Instead Foucault continues his early life long project of understanding society through its discursive formations where a discourse is a set of articulation and practices that define human subjects in relation to knowledge and power. Foucault's aim is not only understand how sexuality is constituted, but also to grapple with the fact that sexuality is consistently present in different eras as an "object of moral preoccupation" (123). In other words, while it may be obvious that religious notions of sexuality are deeply moralistic. It is also true that other conception carry their own ethical change. Furthermore Foucault's power-knowledge analysis revealed the importance of a political understanding of sexuality, one which had been developing for decade constructed rather than inborn. To extent that it is based on the way in which sexuality is defined by the culture in which we live. According to Foucault sexuality is socially constructed. It depends on the culture where people grown up.

Moreover Sedgwick undertakes queer theory in her text *The Epistemology of the Closet* as through the deconstructive "stard" in her text that is to say the "analytic move"(23) that rejects hierarchical binary gender oppositions (heterosexual\ homosexual), arguing instead that they actually subsist in a more unsettled and dynamic tactic relation. She further extends that heterosexual gender performances depends upon the act of excluding and marginalizing homosexual ones. Sedgwick deconstruct the term heterosexuality. She also rejects the binary term heterosexual and homosexual. She wants to tell that people have both homosexual and heterosexual instinct with thin them. In addition she tells that people have homosexual desire by birth but they have to accept heterosexuality because society is accepting that. They

are compelled to accept heterosexuality because social norms and values do not allow them to accept it.

Issue of Homosexuality in Tennessee Williams *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Tyson in her text *Critical Theory Today* forwards that, “queer theory rejects regime of categorizations and asserts that gender and sexuality lack stability” (336). According to him queer theory rejects categorizations like homosexuality, heterosexuality and sexuality which changes according to time instead of constant. The playwright in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* highlighted the same issue that the main character, Brick hides his homosexual desire. But Brick’s wife, Maggie cleverly joins drink party with Skipper in the bar of Blackstone and finds the relation between Skipper and Brick in above then friend. In addition, the relationship between Skipper and Brick is above then friend. In addition, the relationship between Maggie and Brick is not good. Brick does not care her but she shows interest to Brick. He directly tells her to left him and search new boyfriend who loves her. But she says to Skipper that, “Stop Loving My Husband” (27). According to Maggie even in their profession life they stay together and share same room (65). They feel extra when they handshake, hug. “Once in a while he put his hand on my shoulder or I’d put mine on his shoulder or I had put mine on his and shared hotel-rooms”. “Even his big daddy said, “that’s not normal relation” (65). According to social norms, Brick must be heterosexual, so he has married with Maggie but Skipper with whom Brick spend most of his time together because he is unmarried.

Furthermore, one day Skipper phones Brick and tells him “to left his wife and accepts his proposal” but Brick is not able to do so. Brick neither accepts his proposal nor does he lives in a society as a normal person. After proposes Skipper attempts suicide and died. After Skipper’s death Brick turns to alcoholic to kill his disgust and

his Big Daddy also says, “You started drinking when your friend Skipper died” (60). Through the characters like Brick and Skipper this drama shows, there is changing behavior between Skipper and Brick. Since then Brick always wants to stay in cool and claim environment. People cannot say he is homosexual and he is heterosexual, it shows that people can be homosexual and heterosexual both in their life.

Sedgwick in her text *The Epistemology of the Closed* forwards, “queer theory rejects hegemonic understanding regarding relationship (244). Similarly, in the play, Big Daddy mentions that Brick is his favorite son so he lures him as, “if the jig was up, give you the richest land, side of the Nile valley if you have baby when I go” (58). But Brick wants to run from his married life with Maggie (22). In terms of biological sex Big Mama and Maggie represent female whereas Big Daddy, Brick, Gooper and Skipper are male characters. But Brick and Skipper are not fulfilling their responsibility as male characters. They just want to live distinct member of the society. Their feelings are different than the other members of the play. Symbolically Brick represents as bold and strong but in his real life Brick seems weak. He does not express his feelings to his friend Skipper. It is due to the then American the then society. He has fear that if he openly comes in the society with his feelings the society will hate him. Instead of expressing his feelings openly, he chooses, “liquor as a means to live a life” (52). He drinks a lot to get free from the memory of his queer friend, Skipper. It shows even in the then American society, homosexuality has not given a proper place. As a result Skipper loses his life while his proposal has rejected by Brick.

Furthermore Butler in her text *Gender Trouble: Feminism and Subversion of Identity* views; “sexuality as socially construct rather than inborn” (123). The given line shows that it depends on which society they grown up. Sexuality is not

constructed by birth. In the play, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* the playwright raises the same issue American society lacks the idea that queer people born in the society with extraordinary purpose but the sorry thing is that they are compelled to hide it in the heterosexual society. At first Brick grows in the heterosexual society but while he meets Skipper his desire also changes. Because of the American then society Brick hides his feelings towards Skipper. He neither tells his feelings nor does he live in the society tension freely. To be far from Skipper's memory he sinks in liquor and he does not care his family and wife. Furthermore, if heterosexuality is inborn Brick would accept heterosexuality like his father and brother. But he is not able to adopt it. He crushes all his boundary and rejecting the norms and values that accept in the society. And he revolt indirectly by using the means of alcohol.

Furthermore Sedgwick in her text *The Epistemology of the closet* extends that "heterosexual gender performances depend upon the act of excluding and marginalizing homosexual ones" (244). Similarly, "mendacity" (56) plays prime role in the play. Brick hides homosexual desire to save him from the social hates and accepts Maggie as his wife. Brick's gender performance depends upon the act of marginalizing his homosexual desire. By the fear of socially exclude Brick marginalize his feelings and begin to drink alcohol. Society has give space to homosexuals to come openly because they also come in the earth for special purpose. They can contribute for the society as heterosexuals. So society has to respect homosexual feelings and should give them chance to live as a normal people.

Like this Rumens in his journal *Sexuality and According; a Queer Theory Perspective* forwards; "there is biased nature and discrimination upon homosexuals. "In the heterosexual society homosexual are not accepted as a member of it" (35). The text *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* shows same issue. In the play Brick and Skipper are

friends and main characters as well. Both of them are football players. Not only friends they love each other. Their love is invisible in the society. Because they have feared that they will be excluded from the society and family. By this fear he makes decision of escaping from that relation. Brick's father Big Daddy wants to know the reason for his habit of drinking alcohols (55). Then he calls Brick in the room secretly and asks question about his relation with Skipper. But he still tells lie to his father and wants to hide his feeling (63). He thinks that if he discloses his secret, his father also takes it negatively and hates him. But his Brother Gooper and brother in law, Mae knew about his relationship to Skipper. And they tell it to their Mother. It shows that they also take their relationship uneasily. They think that homosexual relation is not acceptable in heterosexual society.

Similarly, Ronald Bayer in his text *Homosexuality and American Psychiatry; the Politics of Diagnoses* focuses primarily, “on the political aspects regarding homosexuality and stresses that homosexuality is not a disease” (84). According to Bayer same sex attraction is taken as a disease in a society. But it is not any kind of disease. Instead of taken homosexual as a sick person, people have to bring them in the society and society has to discuss openly about it. In the play also Big Daddy, Big Mama and Maggie and other family members has taken Brick's relation with Maggie furiously. They are not taken their relation normally. Brick's father and mother are worried for Brick's drinking habit. Brick is lying because he is not able to tell openly about his relation to his family. That's why they think their son is suffering from some kind of disease. For knowing the reason for Brick's alcoholism Big Daddy asks question to Brick. But he does not want to disclose his secret to his father. He just tells his father he drinks alcohol to kill disgust (56).

Furthermore Foucault in his text *The History of Sexuality* states; “sexuality as social construction and he also tells against the theory of sexual repression” (150). Through the theory of sexual repression Foucault argues “desire should be expressed freely” (151). While connecting this idea in the text Brick is repressing his desire towards Skipper. But he already marries Maggie. Maggie loves him but he does not care her. In his professional life he meets a friend, Skipper. They become close friends. They both are pro football player. In the purpose of playing game they both live together. They share each other’s happiness and sorrows. Later on they like each other. But Brick is not able to express his feelings towards Skipper. He represses his desire with thin himself. But skipper directly purpose Brick but Brick does not accepts his proposal. As a result, Skipper commits suicide and dies. If Brick has to accept Skipper’s proposal an innocent character like Skipper does not lose his life. Not only this man has becomes a victim of heterosexual society and the concept of it. Many homosexual lose their life not letting the society to know that they are homosexual but do not express it. It shows that sexuality is not by born rather it is changed according to time.

Like this the text *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* shows extra relationship between the two men characters of the play Brick and Skipper. They both meet each other in their student’s life. While spending the time together there arose a kind of attraction which changes in love ultimately. Brick is stating that “we shared hotel-rooms we’d reach across the space between two beads”. They want to spend their life together but their dream is not fulfilled because of the American contemporary society. If Brick gives supports to Skipper their wish would be fulfill. But Brick became neutral and Skipper compelled to lose his life.

Furthermore Annemarie Jagose in her text *Queer Theory: An Introduction* states, “sexual identity cannot understand through hegemonic conceptualization because queer resists hegemonic order (78).” *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* addresses the same issue. The main characters Brick and Maggie are husband and wife but their relationship is not like as a couple in realities. They have not any relationship as like husband and wife. Even they do not sleep together. Maggie sleeps in bed and Brick sleeps in sofa (89). Maggie faces lots of hindrances in her life because of poverty so she married with Brick’s for the hopes of getting his father’s property (28). But latter on her husband turns to Skipper and does not show interest towards her. By knowing that her husband loves someone else she never give up her hopes and always try to make her husband loves her. She persuades Brick’s for getting Big Daddy’s property by giving birth to a baby. Not only this, she has told lie to her family about her pregnancy by “Brick and I are going to have a child” (87). She attempts to make lie in to truth but Brick reject her proposal. He is not agreed to make relationship with her (89). Brick neither wants to get his father’s property nor Maggie’s love. He just wants to be neutral in his relationship. Furthermore Brick’s mother also pursuits him to be a good boy not an alcoholic by “here’s my precious baby, what’s that liquor down, son, your hand was made fo’ holding something’ better than that!” (33). But Brick does not listen to his mother. He has done whatever he likes. It means he always drinks alcohols and wants to spend the life unconsciously.

Furthermore Ronald Byron in his text *Homosexuality and American Psychiatry* views “psychiatrists are responsible for explaining homosexuality as non normative behaviors (5). This idea is similar to the play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. In the play Brick and Skipper are friends from their college life so they spent more time each other. While spending time together they like each other but they are not able to

express openly about their feelings. Once Skipper purpose Brick but in phone by drinking alcohol. But Brick is rejecting his proposal because he thinks this relation is out from the social norms and values. He just wants to hide it within himself for the fear of social hatred. Once his father asks him question like, “you start drinking alcohol when your friend Skipper is died” (60). Then he is trying to avoid his relationship by telling lies to his father as “oh you think so, too, you call me your son as a queer (62). It seems that he is telling lie to his father not only this he is lying to himself by “I didn’t lie to Big Daddy. I’ve lied to nobody, nobody, nobody but myself, just lied to myself” (95). Brick seems compels to tell it because that contemporary society takes homosexuality as non normative. Brick has also fear that if he discloses his secret to his father his father takes it negatively.

Nick Rumes views about homosexuality in his journal *Sexuality and Accordingce: A Queer Theory Perspective* as “there is biased nature towards homosexuality in the society (45).” In the play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* also Brick and Skipper are highlighted characters. They both like each other. Instead of homosexual desire they hide it and do not behave openly as like homosexual in the society. Not a single character wants to address their voice in the play. Instead of this his brother in law Mae is telling about his dissatisfaction towards his wife Maggie to his mother. Not only this, she blaming Maggie about her childless by telling in the mass “do you know why she’s childless? She’s childless because that big beautiful athlete husband of hers won’t go to bed with her!” (83). Maggie’s husband is interested to someone else it is not her fault. If her family gives space to homosexual Maggie does not destroy her life for the hopes of getting Brick’s love. Like this his father Big Daddy is also taking his relation to Skipper as furiously. He takes their relation as odd one telling as “slept on hobo jungles and railroad y’s and flophouses in all cities is not

normal” (62). If big daddy takes their relation as positively Brick may disclose his privacy openly. He may not tell lie to his father and his wife.

Furthermore Sedgwick in her text *The Epistemology of the Closet* views homosexuality by “deconstructing the term heterosexuality by rejecting binary term heterosexuality and homosexuality” (123). The play *Cat in a Hot Tin Roof* addresses same issue. The characters like Brick and Skipper are deconstructing the term heterosexuality by loving each other. Brick’s family members are accepting heterosexuality but he breaks the traditional norms by making relation with Skipper. His family wants that he must be heterosexual that’s why they married Brick’s with Maggie. Latter on Brick does not show interest to her. He just tries to avoid her. Brick and Maggie are husband and wife in their family’s views but in reality Brick loves his friend Skipper. Brick’s parents tell him for giving the heir to pollit family but he seems indifference in it. He is spending his life by drinking alcohol in the tragedy of Skipper. He is also rejecting the binary term by became heterosexual and homosexual both in his life. In his early life he married to Maggie by the fear of the society. Latter on he does not fulfill his responsibility as a husband. Then he spent most of the time with Skipper. And he has desire to spend his further life with him but society does not allow him by taking homosexuals as odd one.

Lisa Michelle in her text *The Evolution of Medical Definition of Homosexuality* explains about individual’s sexuality as “a fluid, fragmented, dynamic collectivity of possible sexuality” (15). In the play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* addresses the same issue. The anti hero of the play Brick has hidden his relationship with his friend Skipper. When he is not able to get him as his partner his behavior seems change. He always sinks in liquor and does not care his family. While seeing his early life he has spent joyful life. He is living together with his friend in his professional

life. He feels good while getting Skipper's company. Furthermore Brick's sexuality seems fragmented. His heterosexual life and homosexual life both are not completed. As heterosexual life he has married to Maggie but Maggie is not giving birth to a baby because of Brick's dissatisfaction towards her. His homosexual desire also not fulfill because of Skipper's death. So Brick neither became homosexual nor heterosexual in his whole life. By seeing this Brick's life is tragic. He has not able to spend his life as his wish. He has felt regret for the cause of Skipper's death.

Conclusion: A Discriminatory Attitude towards Homosexuals

The drama, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is based on the 'Homosexuality of nature' with the socio context of contemporary America. Most of the characters and the events of the play fall under the social boundary of United Nation. Because of the then American contemporary society the characters like Brick and Skipper are repressing their homosexual desire. They cannot overcome in the society with their extra identity. Not only has this had the then society taken homosexuals as abnormal people. Even they do not take them as the member of the society. They also think it, as the out of the social norms and values. The two men characters in the play are repressing their desire because the social norms are the hindrances of it. They are not overthrown the obstacles created by their society. Among the two main characters, Brick and Skipper, Skipper has attempted suicide attempt. It shows that people cannot go against the social norms and values in that society. Instead of revolting against it Skipper has ended his life. But another character Brick is revolting indirectly against social norms by using the means of liquor. He always drinks alcohol and does not care his family. He just sinks him in to alcohol and has destroyed his life when his queer friend Skipper has died.

The researcher hypothesizes that the play delineates the unfulfilled desire of homosexuals in mid- twentieth century America. Brick, the protagonist of the play is homosexual, have attraction towards the Skipper. The relation between Brick and Skipper has secret. But when Skipper dies Brick turns into alcoholic. Then Brick's alienation begins. Then Brick is not able to fulfill the wish of his parents and his wife. He stays neutral towards the dream of their parents about giving heir to pollitt family. He wants to stay far from his wife. The objective of the research is to show the biased nature of the society towards homosexual. Here in the play other characters do not treat Brick and Skipper as a member of the society. Bick's wife Maggie has always doubt to them not only this once she scolds Brick for the cause of loving her husband. And Brick's father and mother do not try to understand his problem instead of this they always try to impose their norms and values whether he is ready to accept it or not. Similarly the characters like Brick and Skipper are repressing their desire for the sake of their society. They cannot come in the society with their identity. They have fear that if they open in the society the society will hate them. Like this playwright shows the biased nature towards homosexuals by the then American contemporary society. They take them as an evil member of the society. And they think they are the aliens which come from another planet.

By researching the text *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* researcher find out discriminatory nature towards homosexuals in the then American society. The two main characters Brick and Skipper are repressing their desire by the fear of social hatred. They want to come in the outer world with their identity if the society's people join the hands with them. But their does not see any symbol of supportive hands. Instead of this Brick's family is trying to make him to follow heterosexuality. They do not want to accept brick as homosexual.

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