

Edward Prendick's Harrowing Journey on Doctor Moreau's Island: A Tale of Trauma in H.G. Wells' Novel

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Abstract

This study explores the representation of traumatic experiences in H.G. Wells' novel *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. Traumatic experiences are unpredictable, unpreventable situations that overwhelm victims and disrupt their ability to cope. Literature can provide insights into the range of responses to such overwhelming experiences as a reflection of human existence. The objective of this research is to increase awareness and understanding of trauma and mental illness through the analysis of literary depictions. Using a qualitative research approach, the study examines the traumatic experiences encountered by the protagonist, Edward Prendick, in the novel. The analysis categorizes Prendick's traumatic experiences into three main themes: a) being stranded, drifting away, and lost; b) witnessing death and seeing dead bodies; and c) meeting scary creatures, being attacked, and being terrorized. The findings reveal how the novel portrays the psychological and emotional impact of trauma on the protagonist, highlighting the challenges faced by victims of overwhelming and life-threatening situations. By analyzing the literary representation of trauma, this study aims to foster greater empathy and understanding for those affected by traumatic experiences and mental health issues. The in-depth qualitative analysis of the narrative techniques and thematic elements in the novel contributes to the literature on the literary depiction of trauma and its implications for raising awareness and promoting mental health.

Keywords: traumatic experiences, psychology, novel

Introduction

Human life is full of intriguing issues, some of which are traumatic experiences. Haufiku states that “traumatic experiences are part of the problem of the society in which people live.”(Haufiku, 2015) This indicates that everyone can encounter such incidents without exception. Traumatic experiences are situations that can unpredictably occur to people and result in psychological trauma. Pillay in Haufiku notes that Traumatic experiences can have either a negative or a positive impact on those directly exposed to them. (Haufiku, 2015) Traumatic experiences are also distressing events that can damage the mind. (Jones et al., 2023; Mezzalira et al., 2023; Rubenstein et al., 2024) Despite the prevalence of trauma, many people lack a fundamental understanding of its various types and impacts, which can profoundly affect one’s health. (Palma et al., 2023; Spytka, 2023; Maryadi, 2019)

In literature, traumatic experiences are a common theme, reflecting the array of human responses to overwhelming situations. Literature serves as a depiction of human existence, portraying various problems people face. (Rockwell, 2023) As Anderson states, “literature provides readers with a range of human responses to an overwhelming experience in the shape of an anxiety storyline, whether in fiction, film, or poetry.”(Anderson, 2023) Traumatic events, such as rape or murder cases, can significantly impact both victims and others around them, affecting physical, emotional, cognitive, and social well-being (Gqweta, n.d.; Maier, 2023; Moolman et al., 2023). Therefore, exploring traumatic experiences through literary works can provide valuable insights into human psychology and societal issues.

Past research has extensively studied trauma through various media, including novels, films, and songs. For instance, Lilik Toharudin (2012) used a movie, and Balqis Astharini (2017) utilized a song to explore traumatic experiences. Novels, however, offer a unique blend of entertainment and real-world issues, often containing messages conveyed through the plot that resonate deeply with readers Maryadi (2019). This research employs H.G. Wells’ novel “The Island of Doctor Moreau” (1896) to investigate the traumatic experiences of the main character, Edward Prendick. The novel, a science fiction work inspired by contemporary debates on animal experimentation and Darwin’s theories, presents a rich narrative for examining trauma.

The novelty of this research lies in its focus on a classic literary work to explore trauma, a topic previously examined through other mediums like films and songs. By analyzing Wells’ novel, this study adds a fresh perspective to the discourse on trauma, emphasizing the literary portrayal of psychological distress. This approach not only highlights the thematic depth of the novel, but also underscores the relevance of classic literature in contemporary psychological studies.

The implications of this research extend to increasing awareness of trauma and mental illness, providing insights that may benefit both victims and those around them. Understanding the traumatic experiences depicted in literature can enhance empathy and support for those affected by trauma in real life. Furthermore, this study underscores the importance of literary works as tools for reflecting and understanding complex human experiences, contributing to broader discussions in psychology, literature, and social studies.

Methodology

This research employs a qualitative approach to explore and understand meanings related to human issues, specifically focusing on traumatic experiences in H.G. Wells' novel "The Island of Doctor Moreau." The primary data is the novel itself, with secondary data sourced from scientific articles, books, previous research, and websites related to literature, psychology, and trauma. Data collection involved multiple readings of the novel, gathering and reviewing relevant secondary materials, noting key points, and categorizing data according to the theoretical framework. Analysis followed Creswell's methodology, starting with organizing and preparing data, re-reading for accuracy, generating descriptions with multiple perspectives supported by quotations, and interpreting findings through trauma and psychological theories, ultimately concluding the main character's traumatic experiences in the novel.

To interpret and understand the traumatic experiences of the protagonist, this study uses Judith Herman's Theory of Trauma and Stress. This theory focuses on the psychological dynamics that occur in individuals who experience traumatic events, such as feelings of threat, helplessness, and disconnection from a safe environment. (Herman, 2015). According to the Theory of Trauma and Stress, traumatic experiences can evoke excessive physiological, emotional, and cognitive responses in victims and disrupt their ability to cope with dangerous situations. This theoretical framework is used to analyze how the protagonist in the novel reacts and adapts to the traumatic experiences they encounter, such as feeling lost, witnessing death, and facing terrifying creatures. This research aims to understand the psychological dynamics and emotional responses of the protagonist to the traumatic events depicted in the novel and their implications for understanding and awareness of trauma and mental health by applying the theory of trauma and stress. (Creswell & Creswell, 2018)

Findings

Being Stranded/Drift Away and Being Lost

The data of the study based on the approach used to analyse the novel are presented to reveal the answer of the problem identification. The following quotations show how the problem of this study are described.

Data 1

"I do not propose to add anything to what has already been written concerning the loss of the Lady Vain. As everyone knows, she collided with a derelict when ten days out from Callao."(Page 9)

Edward Prendick now narrates, explaining that he is one of four men assumed to have made it to a lifeboat when the Lady Vain sank, yet he claims that there were only three men; the fourth drowned attempting to join them. They drift for six days until they can no longer endure the hunger and thirst, and one of them, Helmar, brings up the idea of cannibalism. Although the sailor agrees to hold a drawing for it, Prendick refuses until the morning of the seventh day. He eventually gives up, and the sailor reneges and wrestles Helmar. During the scuffle, the two of them tumble overboard.

On the eighth day, a ship rescues Prendick, who is now so dazed that he cannot recall any details of the episode. What he does remember are the faces of the captain of the ship and M'ling (although he does not as yet recognize either of them).

Based on the data above, Edward had an accident aboard the Lady Vain with an unmanned boat after leaving Callao for around ten days. People believe that the ship vanished and sunk with all of its contents. The narrator, Edward, tries to justify the spreading story of the loss of the ship Lady Vain.

According to this statement, Edward Prendick was involved in an accident aboard the ship Lady Vain while going from Callao. The researcher determined that this accident may be classified as a traumatic experience, particularly the part about being stranded due to human error. This incident is the root of all traumatic experiences, which will be examined more in the next section.

Data 2

"We drifted famishing, and, after our water had come to an end, tormented by an intolerable thirst, for eight days altogether." (Page 10)

According to this data, Edward was aboard a lifeboat that had just drifted out into the sea after an accident. He explained how terrifying it was to be on the lifeboats for days with such little food and water. On the fourth day, they ran out of water and began hallucinating. The hunger and thirst that tortured them made them weak and stumbled in resignation; all

they did was gaze at each other and make signals with their eyes. Then, the researcher analyze this data is included into traumatic experiences particularly being drifted.

Data 3

“The dingey of the ‘Lady Vain’ had been towing behind; it was half full of water, had no oars, and was quite unvictualled. I refused to go aboard her, and flung myself full length on the deck. In the end, they swung me into her by 28 The Island of Doctor Moreau a rope (for they had no stern ladder), and then they cut me adrift. I drifted slowly from the schooner.” (Page 33)

Everyone swiftly unloaded the cargo as they got at their location. Montgomery, like the sailor, did not want to take Edward with him. They also discussed how they would deal with Edward. Finally, Edward was forcibly lowered back in a lifeboat that was only half full of water and had no food supplies.

This was a huge setback to Edward. He was desperate since he was in poor health and had no food supplies, and the water in the lifeboat was always full. He couldn't move since he didn't have any oars. Until he finally cried and fought frantically, hitting the lifeboat. Based on this data, the researcher enter this data into being drifted.

Data 4

“I strode through the undergrowth that clothed the ridge behind the house, scarcely heeding whither I went; passed on through the shadow of a thick cluster of straight stemmed trees beyond it, and so presently found myself some way on the other side of the ridge, and descending towards a streamlet that ran through a narrow valley.” (Page 51)

The researcher discovered one of the stressful events, such as being lost, in data 4. According to the data, Edward moved away into the woods, not realizing he was next to the slope and down towards the river. Edward was unaware that he was in danger. He, too, was having difficulty finding his way back, so he continued wandering into the forest. Edward had an unexpected event in which he had to be in a perilous foreign country. He couldn't refute or prevent this from happening, therefore he had no choice but to accept his loss.

Data 5

“I walked eagerly, my mind confused with many things, and presently found myself in a level place among scattered trees.” (Page 58)

Based on this information, Edward was simply confused by his thoughts about the strange events that had occurred since his arrival on this island. He continued thinking about it until he couldn't stop walking, landing him in a place full of scattered trees. This statement describes that Edward is in a basic level of frustration, he could not stop thinking for everything that happened recently in his life. This statement also shows the basic mind damage of being stranded/drifted and lost. Traumatic experiences can cause disturbance,

especially to the victim's mind. As stated by Maryadi (2019), traumatic experience is a distressing event that can damage the mind.

Data 6

"I felt assured now that my tawny-faced antagonist was stalking me once more; and coupled with that was another unpleasant realisation, that I had lost my way." (Page 59)

The three data above shows Edward's statement saying that he entered an area he did not know before. At the time, Edward couldn't bear the circumstances in the house. He was enraged and determined to leave the madness for the time being. This, however, caused Edward to become lost in a dangerous woodland. Then, the researcher decides to put this data in a traumatic experiences in a part of being lost. (Note: This analysis is a combined analysis of data 4, data 5, and data 6 because those are related each other.)

Data 7

".., I glanced over my shoulder and saw his attendant with him. I ran furiously up the slope, over it, then turning eastward along a rocky valley fringed on either side with jungle I ran for perhaps a mile altogether." (Page 69)

The data above shows that when Edward saw the terror from beyond Moreau's secret door, he fled into the wilderness and became lost. When someone sees the horrors happening, the only thing that comes to mind is how to save themselves. As stated in the data above, Edward continued to run through the rocky valley eastward for a mile. The researcher concludes that this data is a part of being lost.

Data 8

"So I drifted for three days, eating and drinking sparingly, and meditating upon all that had happened to me,—not desiring very greatly then to see men again. One unclean rag was about me, my hair a black tangle: no doubt my discoverers thought me a madman." (Page 172)

The data above indicates that Edward, who drifted back for three days with no survival experience, appears to be in a state of disarray. He didn't consume much food or drink. He didn't want to go back to his prior life. What he witnessed left him in a state of astonishment. This statement also shows the impact of the traumatic experiences faced by Edward. The researcher finds that these findings are consistent with Adesla's theory of traumatic events and Gasser's theory of being stranded.

Witnessing Death/Seeing Dead Body

Referring to Judith Butler's theory on livable and unlivable lives, the researchers concluded that witnessing death or seeing a dead body is part of the traumatic experience.

This finding then directed the researchers to conduct further data collection on the impact and management of this traumatic experience. The data collected covers various aspects, such as psychological reactions, coping strategies, and interventions required for individuals who experience traumatic events due to witnessing death or seeing a dead body.

Data 9

“He came down out of the tangle of ropes under the stays of the smashed bowsprit, some small rope caught his heel as he let go, and he hung for a moment head downward, and then fell and struck a block or spar floating in the water.” (Page 9 – Page 10)

Edward was in the lifeboat with two other individuals, and there was one more person who tried to get in but didn't make it. The jumper's legs dangled down, causing his head to collide with a floating block. Edward and two other men attempted to rescue her, but she never emerged from the water. The researcher found that what Edward went through was one of the traumatic experiences associated with witnessing death.

Data 10

“The lot fell upon the sailor; but he was the strongest of us and would not abide by it, and attacked Helmar with his hands. They grappled together and almost stood up. I crawled along the boat to them, intending to help Helmar by grasping the sailor's leg; but the sailor stumbled with the swaying of the boat, and the two fell upon the gunwale and rolled overboard together. They sank like stones.” (Page 11)

Edward, who was already fatigued, and two other individuals were able to defend themselves and live. Helmar suggested that a lottery be held. As a result, each of them became apprehensive of the other, until they were caught in a battle.

When the coin was tossed, the sailor was selected, but he refused and hit Helmar instead. The Sailor resists and does not wish to die. The enormous guy struggled Helmar until they both tumbled into the sea as the lifeboat shook. They both perished at the bottom of the sea. Then the researcher concludes that this data is a part of Seeing Death.

Data 11

“..and then in the shadow of some luxuriant ferns I came upon an unpleasant thing,— the dead body of a rabbit covered with shining flies, but still warm and with the head torn off. I stopped aghast at the sight of the scattered blood. Here at least was one visitor to the island disposed of! There were no traces of other violence about it. It looked as though it had been suddenly snatched up and killed; and as I stared at the little furry body came the difficulty of how the thing had been done.” (Page 53 – Page 54)

When Edward was in the woods he also found disgusting things like the bodies of dead animals. This made him wary. Edward was then felt very disgusted by his findings. He found a rabbit that was lowered at the same time as his arrival had died. The rabbit had died in a

sadistic manner, its head had been severed and according to Edward's analysis, it had been hastily killed. The blood that was still warm meant it hadn't happened long ago. Edward doesn't know what animal or creature killed the rabbit. The above data is in accordance with the theory by Watts and Horne (1994) about Seeing Death.

Data 12

“Moreau lay face downward in a trampled space in a canebrake. One hand was almost severed at the wrist and his silvery hair was dabbled in blood. His head had been battered in by the fetters of the puma.” (Page 140)

Moreau vanished along with the free puma that was being worked on at the time. Moreau, armed with a gun, tries to pursue Puma, who is in anguish. Unfortunately for Edward and Montgomery, Moreau was in a horrible situation. Moreau's wrist was nearly severed, and his hair was covered in wounds and blood, allegedly as a consequence of being hit by the reins that had been placed on the puma.

This occurrence is terrifying and has numerous connotations. Because Moreau is revered by the Beast Folk. As word spread, the Beast Folk began to challenge the law. This put Edward and Montgomery in much greater peril. Nobody else will bow to them, also Puma and Hyena may strike at any time. Then, the researcher concludes that this data is a traumatic experiences in part of seeing death.

Data 13

“Montgomery lay on his back, with the hairy-grey Beast-man sprawling across his body. The brute was dead, but still gripping Montgomery’s throat with its curving claws. Near by lay M'ling on his face and quite still, his neck bitten open and the upper part of the smashed brandy-bottle in his hand. Two other figures lay near the fire,—the one motionless, the other groaning fitfully, every now and then raising its head slowly, then dropping it again.” (Page 147)

Edward went over to the location after hearing cries coming from the direction of the beach party. Montgomery yelled his name, and when Edward arrived, he discovered Montgomery and M'ling in a deplorable state. M'ling had died, and Montgomery was dying. Montgomery had a gigantic black beast's claw embedded in his neck, but the thing was dead.

Data 14

“He was dead; and even as he died a line of white heat, the limb of the sun, rose eastward beyond the projection of the bay, splashing its radiance across the sky and turning the dark sea into a weltering tumult of dazzling light. It fell like a glory upon his death-shrunken face.” (Page 149)

Montgomery was unable to live and died as a result of the evidence presented above. Because of this tragedy, Edward was the sole human on the island, surrounded by all the Beast

Folk. Data 5 and 6 depict Montgomery's dying process. The researcher concludes that this event is one of the painful experiences in seeing death. (Note: This analysis is a combined analysis of data 13 and data 14 because it is related each other.)

Data 15

“My Saint-Bernard-creature lay on the ground, dead; and near his body crouched the Hyena-swine, gripping the quivering flesh with its misshapen claws, gnawing at it, and snarling with delight.”
(Page 168)

The data shown above reveals that the Dog-Man loyal to Edward died. Edward previously felt helped and awake because of that loyal Dog-Man, but the Hyena-Swine murdered the Dog-Man. The Hyena-Swine used its claws and teeth to murder the Dog-Man. Seen when Edward finds the creature killing Dog-Man. This occurrence made Edward even more terrified because his trusted guard had perished. The data shown above covers traumatic experiences as part of the frequent death.

Data 16

“The men in it were dead, had been dead so long that they fell to pieces when I tilted the boat on its side and dragged them out.” (Page 171)

Based on the date 8, From the darkness, Edward noticed a lifeboat. He noticed that the lifeboat had two people in it. He kept yelling after the lifeboat, but there was no response. He didn't see the lifeboat until it washed up on the beach. But all he discovered were the bodies of two seamen. They'd been dead for so long that when Edward moved them, their bodies crumbled. The researcher decided that the incidence belonged in the portion of the seeing dead body that dealt with traumatic experiences.

Meet Scary Creatures, Being Attacked and Being Terrorized.

Meeting, being attacked, or being terrorized by a frightening creature is not something anyone wants to happen. These events can happen to anyone and are not predictable or preventable. As a result, when this occurs, they must confront it.

Edward Prendick lives on an island populated by animals produced by Dr. Moreau. Mutant beings are animals that have been compelled to transform into humans as beast-folk. These transformed monsters are putting pressure on Edward and threatening him. Edward meets creatures with unusual body postures and frightening looks who can even communicate with him. Aside from that, Edward was always terrified of the beast-folk.

Because the beast-folk attacked and wanted to murder Edward, this kept him awake and afraid.

Data 17

“He was, I could see, a misshapen man, short, broad, and clumsy, with a crooked back, a hairy neck, and a head sunk between his shoulders. He was dressed in dark-blue serge, and had peculiarly thick, coarse, black hair.” (Page 17)

They were leaving the cabin when they noticed a man in their way. He was on the ladder, back to them, peering over the combing hatchway. This was Edward's first encounter with a peculiar look. When he met this individual, he was taken aback. He was a bizarre man, small, wide, hunched back, with a hairy neck and a hairy head that looked to be one with his neck. Researcher determined that this incidence was part of traumatic experiences, particularly encounters with frightening animals.

Data 18

“In some indefinable way the black face thus flashed upon me shocked me profoundly. It was a singularly deformed one. The facial part projected, forming something dimly suggestive of a muzzle, and the huge half-open mouth showed as big white teeth as I had ever seen in a human mouth. His eyes were blood-shot at the edges, with scarcely a rim of white round the hazel pupils. There was a curious glow of excitement in his face.” (Page 17)

Edward noticed another abnormality displayed by the weird black man in the data above. He has a different mouth and teeth than humans, as well as more animal-like eyes. The study determined that this was one of the traumatic events, namely encountering scary creatures. (Note: This is a continuation of the data analysis 17)

Data 19

“The black-faced cripple was glaring at me as fixedly in the bows near the puma. There were three other men besides,—three strange brutish-looking fellows, at whom the stag-hounds were snarling savagely.” (Page 34)

Montgomery saved Edward again again, albeit this time he didn't want to. Montgomery directed his soldiers to bring Edward to him. Edward accompanied Montgomery's entourage. At the time, he encountered another unusual and frightening creature. The black-faced creature beside the puma and many other creatures shot Edward a keen look as dogs barked at them. This is an extremely uncommon and frightening experience. Edward had never seen anything like this before. As a result, the researcher thinks that the data presented above contains traumatic experiences, namely encounters with scary creatures.

Data 20

“They had lank black hair, almost like horsehair, and seemed as they sat to exceed in stature any race of men I have seen. The white-haired man, who I knew was a good six feet in height, sat a head below any one of the three. I found afterwards that really none were taller than myself; but their bodies were abnormally long, and the thigh-part of the leg short and curiously twisted. At any rate, they were an amazingly ugly gang, and over the heads of them under the forward lug peered the black face of the man whose eyes were luminous in the dark.” (Page 35 – Page 36)

This data points to another strange event that Edward saw. Those people had hair that resembled horse hair. They weren't quite as tall as Edward, but they had very lengthy bodies and strange legs. Researchers found that this incident was one of the traumatic experiences, particularly the encounter with scary creatures.

Data 21

“Then astonishment paralysed me. Under his stringy black locks I saw his ear; it jumped upon me suddenly close to my face. The man had pointed ears, covered with a fine brown fur!

‘Your breakfast, sair,’ he said.” (Page 43 – Page 44)

Edward was steadily startled by what he had observed inside the hut from the first day he was there. Edward had only just heard these individuals speak, but what they were saying was strange and perplexing to him. One of them was a servant who came to bring Edward's meals while he was in the hut. When the maid bowed to him, Edward was taken aback because the maid's ears leaped on him. Like animal ears, the ears are long and pointed. The researcher deduced from this data that the encounter was included in the traumatic experiences portion of the meet scary creatures section.

Data 22

“Then suddenly upon the bank of the stream appeared Something—at first I could not distinguish what it was. It bowed its round head to the water, and began to drink. Then I saw it was a man, going on allfours like a beast. He was clothed in bluish cloth, and was of a copper-coloured hue, with black hair. It seemed that grotesque ugliness was an invariable character of these islanders. I could hear the suck of the water at his lips as he drank.”

“Forthwith he scrambled to his feet, and stood wiping his clumsy hand across his mouth and regarding me. His legs were scarcely half the length of his body.” (Page 52)

In the preceding data, Edward, who is lost in the jungle, walks into a stream of water. He then noticed a creature leaning down to drink. The thing resembled a person, yet it drank on all fours like an animal, had copper skin, and legs that were only half as long as its torso. As a result of the foregoing data, the researcher concludes that this data indicates a traumatic experience that Edward had, which included encountering scary creatures.

Data 23

“Before me, squatting together upon the fungoid ruins of a huge fallen tree and still unaware of my approach, were three grotesque human figures. One was evidently a female; the other two were men. They were naked, save for swathings of scarlet cloth about the middle; and their skins were of a dull pinkish-drab colour, such as I had seen in no savages before. They had fat, heavy, chinless faces, retreating foreheads, and a scant bristly hair upon their heads. I never saw such bestial-looking creatures.” (Page 54 – Page 55)

After gently moving away from the first encounter in the stream, Edward returned to see three more odd animals. Three odd and nasty people were cowering on a fallen tree. The other two persons appear to be men and women. They just cover their genitals with a rag, their complexion is pink, their features are pudgy, there is no chin, and their hair is scant. Edward couldn't stop thinking about what he saw; he was astounded since he had never seen even a primitive human as hideous as the island's people.

Data 24

“Presently his articulation became shriller, and spreading his hands he rose to his feet. At that the others began to gibber in unison, also rising to their feet, spreading their hands and swaying their bodies in rhythm with their chant. I noticed then the abnormal shortness of their legs, and their lank, clumsy feet. All three began slowly to circle round, raising and stamping their feet and waving their arms; a kind of tune crept into their rhythmic recitation, and a refrain,—‘Aloola,’ or ‘Balloola,’ it sounded like. Their eyes began to sparkle, and their ugly faces to brighten, with an expression of strange pleasure. Saliva dripped from their lipless mouths.” (Page 55)

The three weird beings appear to be having a dialogue in the data above, but it's unclear because their voice is low and they shake their heads and shoulders. Their bodies shake in tune with their singing as their voices get louder and more like singing. Their legs are small, unsightly, and drooping. This episode may be a nightmare for Edward, leading the researcher to infer that it falls under the category of traumatic experiences, especially encounters with scary creatures. (Note: This analysis is a combined analysis between data 23 and data 24 because these two data are closely related.)

Data 25

“Then suddenly traversing a little glade, I saw with an unpleasant start two clumsy legs among the trees, walking with noiseless footsteps parallel with my course, and perhaps thirty yards away from me. The head and upper part of the body were hidden by a tangle of creeper. I stopped abruptly, hoping the creature did not see me. The feet stopped as I did. So nervous was I that I controlled an impulse to headlong flight with the utmost difficulty. Then looking hard, I distinguished through the interlacing network the head and body of the brute I had seen drinking. He moved his head.

There was an emerald flash in his eyes as he glanced at me from the shadow of the trees, a half-luminous colour that vanished as he turned his head again.” (Page 56)

While Edward was going away from the three monsters between the trees, he noticed two feet walking slowly without making a sound and then stopping when Edward stopped. Edward was terrified since it became out that he had been scared all along by this creature with sparkling green eyes. The thing that was frightening him turned out to be the one he saw while drinking in a pond of water. Because this was a terrifying and hazardous incident, the researcher classified it as a traumatic experience in the category of being terrorized, in accordance with the preceding idea.

Data 26

“It came out black and clear-cut against the darkling sky; and presently a shapeless lump heaved up momentarily against the sky-line and vanished again.” (Page 59).

Data 27

“So I stood for perhaps a minute, and then, with an eye to the trees still, turned westward to cross the headland; and as I moved, one among the lurking shadows moved to follow me.” (Page 60)

According to the data 26 and data 27 above, Edward was being terrorized by this dark thing. Edward always appears as a dark shadow and then vanishes. This incident made Edward continue to move quickly in a more open direction. He immediately to get out of the forest that is towards the beach.

Data 28

“It was some time before I could summon resolution to go down through the trees and bushes upon the flank of the headland to the beach. At last I did it at a run; and as I emerged from the thicket upon the sand, I heard some other body come crashing after me. At that I completely lost my head with fear, and began running along the sand. Forthwith there came the swift patter of soft feet in pursuit. I gave a wild cry, and redoubled my pace. Some dim, black things about three or four times the size of rabbits went running or hopping up from the beach towards the bushes as I passed.

So long as I live, I shall remember the terror of that chase.” (Page 61)

In the preceding data, Edward, who was terrified, raced quickly on the shore. He heard what sounded like footsteps following him. He yelled as loudly as he could and rushed faster. He is constantly terrorized by the beast. The researcher classify this incident as a traumatic experience as part of being terrorized.

Data 29

“Splash, splash, came the pursuing feet, nearer and nearer. I felt my breath going, for I was quite out of training; it whooped as I drew it, and I felt a pain like a knife at my side. I perceived the Thing would come up with me long before I reached the enclosure, and, desperate and sobbing for my breath, I wheeled round upon it and struck at it as it came up to me,—struck with all my strength. The stone came out of the sling of the handkerchief as I did so. As I turned, the Thing, which had been running on all-fours, rose to its feet, and the missile fell fair on its left temple. The skull rang loud, and the animal-man blundered into me, thrust me back with its hands, and went staggering past me to fall headlong upon the sand with its face in the water; and there it lay still.” (Page 62)

Based on the data above, the thing chasing Edward ran utilizing its four legs, coming closer and closer. Until, at last, he leapt on Edward. Edward pushed the creature, but the beast's claws hurt him. The monster was back on its feet, but this time on two legs. Edward then resumed his blows and stones. The boulder struck him directly in the temple, causing the Creature to howl loudly and assault Edward before flipping over to the edge of the water. The authors classify this episode as one of the traumatic experiences associated with being attacked.

Data 30

“Then something cold touched my hand. I started violently, and saw close to me a dim pinkish thing, looking more like a flayed child than anything else in the world. The creature had exactly the mild but repulsive features of a sloth, the same low forehead and slow gestures.

As the first shock of the change of light passed, I saw about me more distinctly. The little sloth-like creature was standing and staring at me. My conductor had vanished.” (Page 75)

According to the data above, Edward was led to a location by a monster who spoke to him in the forest. Edward was resting there when he was startled by a cool touch on his hand. The weird human-like creature and the slow-moving sloth astonished him once again. Events gradually make Edward believe that he has been led to the location where the people of these weird animals congregate.

The odd dwellers consider Edward to be one of them, specifically a creature made by Moreau, rather than Montgomery and Moreau, who they regard as gods. As a result of the previously provided idea, the researcher determines that this incidence is included in the traumatic experiences.

Data 31

“I heard a short, sharp cry behind me, a fall, and turning saw an awful face rushing upon me,—not human, not animal, but hellish, brown, seamed with red branching scars, red drops starting out upon it, and the lidless eyes ablaze. I threw up my arm to defend myself from the blow that flung me headlong with a broken forearm; and the great monster, swathed in lint and with red-stained bandages fluttering about it, leapt over me and passed. I rolled over and over down the beach, tried to sit up, and collapsed upon my broken arm. Then Moreau appeared, his massive white face all the

more terrible for the blood that trickled from his forehead. He carried a revolver in one hand. He scarcely glanced at me, but rushed off at once in pursuit of the puma.” (Page 130 – Page 131)

A loud cry came from behind Edward. When he turned back, the shrieking monster revealed itself to be a puma that had fled Doctor Moreau's operating room. The creature is neither human nor animal. The creature resembles a monster with a body covered with stitches. He ran up to Edward and assaulted him.

Edward could only deflect the creature's onslaught with his hands until he collapsed. Edward's hand was shattered. He then rolled over to the beach and attempted to sit up, but he fell since his arm was hurting and he couldn't hold it up. As a result, the authors classify the data described above as one of the traumatic experiences associated with being attacked.

Edward was terrified of the surroundings as a result of his traumatic experiences. He used to fantasize about everything that had occurred to him. After he was recovered, experts declared him mad since everything he said seemed absurd. Similarly, researchers did a poll at the time to validate his remarks, but nothing relating to Edward's account was discovered. He made the decision to avoid social situations. To calm his nerves, he elected to stay at the mountain's base by himself. As stated by Maryadi (2019), traumatic experience is a distressing event that can damaging minds.

Discussion

Based on the data, Judith Herman's trauma theory can analyze several situations related to “Being Stranded/Drift Away” and “Being Lost” in H.G. Wells' novel *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. Herman emphasizes the psychological impacts of trauma and the processes of recovery, highlighting the importance of safety, remembrance, and reconnection in healing.

In the novel, characters face traumatic experiences that illustrate their vulnerability. For instance, when the protagonist is adrift without food and water for eight days or stranded in a dinghy, they are placed in life-threatening situations. These moments of extreme distress reflect Herman's idea of trauma as a response to overwhelming experiences that disrupt the individual's sense of safety and control.

Feeling lost and disoriented signifies a profound loss of agency, leading to feelings of helplessness. According to Herman, trauma is often characterized by a disconnection from reality and a fragmented sense of self. The characters' struggles emphasize their lack of recognition and validation, positioning them in situations where their lives feel unlivable.

Herman's framework also contextualizes trauma within the larger societal narrative, illustrating how experiences of violence and loss shape identity and community. The

characters navigate a world that often fails to acknowledge their suffering, thus perpetuating their trauma. This is evident in the way life and death are portrayed as chaotic and arbitrary, reflecting the systemic forces that contribute to their pain.

For instance, the discovery of the rabbit's corpse highlights the profound impact of violence. Herman notes that witnessing or experiencing sudden and brutal deaths can lead to lingering trauma, complicating the survivors' understanding of themselves and their place in the world. The deaths of Moreau and Montgomery underscore how trauma is not merely physical but also deeply emotional and social, fracturing identities and relationships.

Moreover, Herman emphasizes the importance of storytelling in the healing process. The imagery of a man disintegrating as he is pulled from the boat serves as a powerful metaphor for the transience of life and the pervasive impact of trauma. Such representations invite readers to reflect on the significance of loss and the collective nature of trauma, reinforcing that healing often requires community and connection.

In the excerpts from *The Island of Doctor Moreau*, the character's traumatic experiences resonate with Herman's theory. The initial depiction of a dark figure evokes fear and uncertainty, illustrating how trauma can stem from ambiguous threats. The character's sense of being hunted intensifies their anxiety, reflecting the visceral responses described by Herman.

When the character confronts and strikes the creature, this act symbolizes a desperate attempt to reclaim agency amidst chaos. However, the aftermath—where the creature lies lifeless—reveals the brutal consequences of violence and the fragility of identity within traumatic contexts. The encounter with the sloth-like being further complicates the character's self-perception, embodying the internal conflict between familiarity and repulsion that trauma can instigate.

In conclusion, Herman's lens illustrates how trauma affects individual psyches and collective narratives. The characters' experiences of fear and disorientation reflect the profound impact of trauma on their identities. The struggle to navigate these encounters emphasizes the necessity of safety and connection in the healing process. Thus, the novel serves as a compelling exploration of trauma's enduring effects on identity, highlighting the interconnectedness of personal and societal narratives in the journey toward recovery.

Conclusion

After analyzing the traumatic experiences by Edward Prendick in the novel *The Island Of Doctor Moreau*, the researchers presents the conclusion in this chapter. The conclusion is based on research questions, “How are the traumatic experiences of Edward Prendick in the novel *The Island of Doctor Moreau*?”

First, The researchers uses Adesla’s theory about the three important elements of traumatic experiences in order to find out the traumatic experiences of Edward Prendick in H.G Wells’s novel. After taking the data and classifying the data based on the theory of traumatic experiences, the researchers concludes that there are several traumatic experiences that faced by Edward Prendick in H.G. Wells’s novel which are classified into three parts: a.) Being Stranded/Drift Away and Getting Lost, b.) Witnessing Dead/Seeing Dead Body, and c.) Meet Scary Creatures/ Being Attacked and Being Terrorized. Secondly, the researchers concluded that the traumatic experiences faced by Edward had an effect on Edward’s mental health itself. So, he has to live a life full of shadows about his past.

The researchers expect that by conducting this research, future researchers will be able to investigate psychological problems in literature, particularly traumatic experiences, as there are still many works of literature that can be analyzed by researchers. This research will be very useful to future researchers in analyzing the impact of traumatic experiences of Edward Prendick in novel *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.

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