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**Educational Implication of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
in relation with Multi Literacies Theory**

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Abstract

This study analyzes the selected text from just the first book of Harry Potter series. This study validates assumptions about the changing trends in teaching field. It's the era of using technology in the classroom and it will facilitate teaching and learning process. Recent studies focus and believe in approach of Student Centered Learning and on less teacher's talk time, it can be implemented through Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone by applying Cope and Kalantzis Multiliterary theories by New London Group 2000. The storyline of Harry Potter produces empathy in millions of people around the world as it recounts the story full of surprises and jokes. The storytelling has always been loved in almost all the cultures of the world. Rowling adapted it through Harry Potter and the interest factor is already there. Therefore, Harry Potter can successfully be studied and researched in multiple genres.

Though there are two thousand Multi Literacy theories but I am applying Cope and Kalantzis New London's groups Multi Literacies theory on Harry Potter's Book1. The Philosopher's Stone which is also known as The Sorcerer's' Stone. The integrated language skills, interpersonal skills, communication skills and other very concrete aspects will be explored with respect to it. The focus is primarily on the depictions of teaching and learning with respect to the following four aspects of multi literacy theory by New London Group

- 1) Situated Practice: The meaning making of everyday life, connecting to reality
- 2) Overt Instruction: where on part of teachers students develop meta-language on their own. This emphasizes more on indirect way of teaching and clarifying the concepts of students.

3) Critical Framing: Pedagogically teacher gives a frame of mind and the focus is on sharpening the students' perception and interpretation of various aspects of life in the longer run.

4) Transformed Practices: It refers to the change in students' personalities after reading watching or experiencing anything. This research analyzes Harry Potter Book 1 with a different perspective of catering the Harry Potter

- Self Realization/identity
- Seeking Truth and Righteousness
- Hard work is the key to success.
- To teach Reading and Literary Concepts
- To teach Grammar and Vocabulary
- To teach The Art of Characterization

The research questions are:

- How Harry Potter and The Philosopher's/Sorcerer's Stone could be beneficial for students in a classroom?
- How it can help teachers and learners in relation with the stated theory.

Significance:

To apply Cope and Kalantzis, New London Group theory of Multi-Literacy on Harry Potter's first book and its effectiveness.

INTRODUCTION:

Joane Kathleen Rowling's first novel in the series was named as Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone and later the same novel was named as Harry Potter and The Sorcerers' Stone by Bloomsbury Publishers. Harry Potter series contain seven books in all based on the seven years that Harry, his best friends Ron and Hermione and other school fellows spent in Hogwarts before graduation. Apparently it seems to be the story of magic, witches and wizardry but has a deeper impact on the educational implications at a deeper level and I am convinced that it can lead to a classroom environment where successful and effective learning takes place in addition to Cope and Kalantzis' Theory of Multi literacies and its implication on Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

Synoptically its first image has always been magic, witchcraft and wizardry. This book is undeniably perceived by numberless people as a piece of magic and evil and is considered to be of no good. But on the metaphorical or on the educational level it is of immense significance and can be taken as the study of a society. From the very first chapter of the book, we are shown a miserable picture of step relatives of Harry Potter, the protagonist who lives with them till the age of 11 years. The first impression that the first chapter creates is that of a shy, submissive, sensitive and an extremely tolerant boy who is suffering through the turmoil of his life due to his parents' sudden death. Uncle Vernon, Aunt Petunia and their only and badly pampered son Dudley treats him very badly and keeps making him realize that he didn't belong to them. They snub him whenever he asks any question about his parents' death. Harry Potter is given a place under the staircase while Dudley has two bedrooms, one for himself and the other for his toys.

On the other hand readers are introduced to an entirely new world of Hogwarts, the best school for witch craft and wizardry which has fully defined rules and regulations. The readers have been introduced to the children in a magical world and a couple of them in the real world. For instance Harry Potter who did not know till the age of 11 years, that he is a wizard, and his cousin Dudley and several other friends of Dudley portrayed children of the real world. Children are little humans and have their own concerns. They have always been thought to be unaware of the surroundings but in Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone readers have been introduced with their concerns, their inquisitive nature and their struggle for finding the solutions to their problems. This makes the novel more adventurous. Metaphorically, however, it can be taken as the story of every human who is searching for the self-realization and to find one's identity. This makes the person a "seeker" in terms of Harry Potter.

The novel relates the tale of a boy wizard who has two best friends Ron who is a wizard, and another best friend is Hermione who is a muggle blood, this makes their trio who are always together no matter whatever they have to suffer through. When the children are introduced to the magical world at Hogwarts, basically they are introduced to rules and regulations, code of conduct, and their limits till where they can exercise their choices and powers. In this study the focus is on the educational implication of Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone in terms of Multiliteracies Theory of New London Group 2000 by Cope and Kalantzis.

There are various models that attempt to explain how students learn. "Lessons on Learning" by Christine Robinson identifies three of them: Bloom's taxonomy, Fink's taxonomy, and Gardner's

theory of multiple intelligences. Bloom's taxonomy organizes learning into six cognitive steps. The lowest level of learning is knowledge. It includes being able to recall specific definitions, dates, terms, and basic principles. The other stages are comprehension, application, analysis, and synthesis. Evaluation is the final stage.

The rationale of my argument focuses on the effective and feasible use of Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone. The application of multiliterary theories by Cope and Kalantzis explore it with a different angle by applying theory on it and secondly, how learners can really benefit from it. Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone lays the basic and strong foundation for the following six books. The similarities and differences as well as the maturity element could be more obvious in the successive novel.

Rusmir Musia and Lyndsay Agans state in an article Harry Potter and The Theory of Education, "In the process K Rowling has conjured new tools to understand and structure student learning" they further admire by stating

"Rowling expertly weaves into her plots have been a subject of debate amongst National organizations of higher learning. Yet, despite its narrative setting with an educational institution, few have examined beyond clever study aids' how Harry Potter can help one understand student's educational experience."

The four steps of the aforementioned theory by Cope and Kalantzis Multiliteracies Theory are as following:

Situated Practice

It deals with Meaning Making of everyday life. It poses situations to the students where they try to find solutions on their own, Through Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone students are assigned some of the characters and situations where they try to find the answers or solutions to the problems themselves. The Continuous Professional Development Trainings and Workshops in the present times are the reflection of the Situated Practices. Number of examples can be observed in this regard for instance students can be assigned the art of characterization, the characters of teachers can help learners to differentiate various qualities, the laws and rules can be taught and implemented on students very effectively by focusing only on the advices, speeches and suggestions by Prof Dumbledore and Prof McGonagall. In the book learning is taking place with the grounded experience which synthesizes knowledge and learning takes place as situated practice. To develop the communication and presentation skills could add to this model of learning. Rowling introduced the successful learning communities under the names of four houses in Hogwarts.

Overt Instruction:

The students are directed and facilitated indirectly to clarify the concepts. For instance, making them perform role-plays instead of lecturing them as to how they should communicate in real situations. The roleplays can help students to identify good vs evil, in the form of Dudley and Harry Potter in the real world characters. The moral values for example to support your friends at the time of hardship, sometimes helping ones friends can clarify many of our own concepts and ideas.

Despite all the enchantments and being wizards themselves, students are bound to attend their classes, attend lectures, do the assessments and take tests on the regular basis. They are not allowed to exercise their power of likes and dislikes or preferences rather they are supposed to obey and follow the rules and regulations set by the institution. JK Rowling's innovative and authoritative online presence makes this study more applicable with another dimension of ICT which stands for Information and Computer Technology in a language or literature classroom. The benefits are that students can develop independent learning strategies, principally for projects and presentations and even for report writing.

Hogwarts provides an opportunity for an independent learning. It also provides the team work spirit and competitive environment where students are patriotic and they owe their Alma Mater (think it as mother of knowledge). The various strategies can be adopted and taught through Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone. Hogwarts system of reward and punishments indicates its effectiveness in maintaining discipline. Whoever breaks the rule points are deducted from their house and thus students are conscious of it. Considering Prof McGonagall's treatment, because she deducts 150 points from Harry, Ron and Hermoine (belong to Gryffindor) makes it more comprehensive and other members of the house got annoyed with them due to points deduction. The system of points engages students in constructive intentional behavior. Students are lead towards self-realization and the knowledge is transmitted in terms of practical knowledge and students have hands on experience of learnt knowledge. This leads to implication of meaning making of the received information, application and the impact on students' life in that context.

The communication skills containing interpersonal skills, verbal and no verbal communication helps the students to cope up with transfer of allegiance from family to the school and also to be an effective team member.

Critical Framing:

Here the focus is paid to the importance of communication and interaction which has been done by humans for thousands of years. Hermoine, though being a muggle blood initially confronted Malfoy and his friends and wasn't confident enough to face them, but gradually she undergoes through an amazing cognitive element of learning' "analyzing and synthesizing information" to meaning making and to understand the importance of relationships. She starts first year at Hogwarts as a very hardworking and bright student and keeps it as a highest priority but at the end of Sorcerer's Stone when

Harry said, "I'm not as good as you'

"Me!" said Hermoine." Books! And cleverness! There are more important things' friendship and bravery and' oh Harry' be careful." (Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone)

Significantly, few lines can specifically be read for this part of MLT when in chapter 13 of book 1 Harmoine pushes the book to Harry and Ron to read about the Philosopher's Stone

The ancient study of alchemy is concerned with making The Philosopher's Stone, a legendary substance with astonishing powers. The stone will transform any metal into pure gold. It also produces the Elixir of Life, which will make the drinker immortal.

There have been many reports of The Philosopher's Stone over the centuries, but the only stone currently in existence belongs to Mr Nicholas Flamel, the noted alchemist and opera-lover. Mr Flamel, who celebrated his six hundred and sixty-fifth birthday last year, enjoys a quiet life in Devon with his wife, Perenelle (six hundred and fifty-eight).

(Nicholas Flamel, pg161)

The Transformed Practice:

It refers to social learning skills. Team work abilities are portrayed immensely throughout the series in general and in the first book in particular. Hermione's character can be an inspiration to many of the learners.

To simplify it can be assumed that nowadays kids due to extreme exposure to screen are addicted and they try to portray those characters in their real life situations. Instantly, they as modern world generation tend to find after reading or watching an activity that what is there for them. This is called the transformed practice. To make them principled and the controlled learners, who will be able to differentiate between good or evil? Rowling has provided readers a tool to differentiate the two families in book one The Durseleys and The Weasleys.

Weasleys put magnificent trust in their children education at Hogwarts unlike the other, who tends to speak ill of Harry, Hogwarts and who ever and whatever belonged to it.

My emphasis in this study is on how effective is to teach language and literature along with moral and ethical values with the help of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in particular and the rest of six books of Harry potter series in general. Although, the series consist of the seven books including the first book Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone, Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban, Harry Potter and The Phoenix, Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince, Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows .

There are certain inherent questions that must be answered to arrive at the broader significance of the novel's themes: how is the metaphorical significance of the novel is deeper in implication? Isn't Harry Potter all about magic and wizards? How Cope and Kalantz Theory can be applied on the first book in series? Where could be the differentiation learning that could take place in the classroom? What areas of teaching/learning could be approached through this study? What good it could do to the learners? What moral and ethical values can be taught through it? How human psychology has been intrigued by the author by giving the comparative characters, situations and even by families?

If it does, how to deal with it and analyze the future prospects of my current study. How this theory could facilitate the process of learning by teaching Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's/Philosopher's Stone.

To answer these questions this study focuses on various characters and events that can put forth the argument in a constructive way. My concern in this study is to surface forth all those applicable educational factors that could be a reason to clarify the concepts of learners regarding the rules and regulations and to differentiate between different personalities. JK Rowling emphasized on the perennial struggle between the right and wrong, good or evil, families and personalities. The focus will be to see the allegorical implications of the novel in terms of pedagogical dynamics. The struggle for leadership and lust for power plays important role in the novel. The inherent degenerative forces of brutality versus inherent tendencies towards civilizational achievements are the hypothetical assumptions that set the general theme of the novel. The two vital symbols of good and evil are Prof Dumbledore and Lord Voldemort. The aspect of using Harry Potter series for teaching purposes would not have been intended by JK Rowling. Being educationist before becoming an established writer, she remained in teaching field for quite a long time and was well aware of teaching/learning processes and the institutional environment and also it would be justified that how good and bad teaching can directly or indirectly affects the learning process.

Yet Rowling perceives another disquieting thing, we find that the children in Hogwarts are more curious to know about the restricted sections and the forbidden forest. Though it's their first year at Hogwarts yet they got acclimatized with the environment very easily. They started socializing and become friends of children of likewise choices.

Conclusion:

It's an ongoing research and will open doors to plenty other researchers because mine is innovative research and will prove to be droplet in the sea of knowledge.

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