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LEH 355 – 62612  
Final Project  
May 14, 2018

## Monstrosity

Monstrosity trait is given to imperfect, unpleasant, and out of the ordinary of the social stereotype. Monstrosity is often used to depicted disabled people in movies, Tv shows, and books where their disabilities are target as imperfect and defects. Disability is a condition that may limit a person to complete a task. And that makes the entertainment industry portray disability as a monstrosity that needs to be eliminated shortly in the story. Longmore said that disabled people are the target in fiction because it is a creation of what the society believes. Therefore, there is a stigma around disability that does not help society in understanding that there is more to a person's disability.

The book *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck, tells the story of Lennie Smalls, a large man with great extremities, "shapeless face" (Steinbeck), strong and tall in other words a monster. Lennie was mentally disabled, and he is often described as a monster since he was big and strong. For instance, in "Of Mice and Men" Lennie was bullied because of his big size by Curley and other characters of the story. For instance, Curley was looking for his wife and starts to insult Lennie "Come on, ya big bastard. Get on your feet. No big son-of-bitch is gonna laugh at me. I'll show yawho'syella" (Steinbeck 62). Even though that Lennie was not laughing at him, Curley insults him because of Lennie's condition.

Furthermore, the following step that Curley did was to hit Lennie then the narrator portrays Curley as weak "Curley was white and shrunken by now, and his struggling had become weak. He stood crying, his fist lost in Lennie's paw" (Steinbeck 63). In other words, Lennie this giant guy tries to defend himself from this bully, and still, the narrator describes him as a monster because

of his disability. The acts of Lennie throughout the story are of a person who does not pay much attention to what his surrounding is or what he does. But in my opinion that should not be an excuse to called him names. Lennie Small is mistreated by many of the characters and the narrator because of his mental illness that is why he gets himself in trouble because he tries to defend himself, but it seems as this enormous monster that cannot control itself. However, the characters of this story do not comprehend that Lennie is in need of understanding and kindness.

In the movie “The miracle worker” Helen Keller is portrayed as a wild animal, out of control, with no manners, hitting people, and taking anything from anywhere. Keller is seen as a monster that is destroying everything like she cannot control what she is doing since that is her “nature.” For instance, the scene where Hellen is going around the table taking food out everyone’s plate and eating with her hands. Then miss Sullivan tries to teach Hellen to eat with a spoon Hellen gets mad and destroys everything, throws the food on the floor, she hits Ms. Sullivan many times, and run away. This is the kind of behavior and attitudes that many characters with disabilities are depicted. However, Keller just wants to communicate, get the people around her know how she felt, what she needs, what she wants but she can’t say or see. She knows that she has her parents support that is why she makes a lot of mess, runs around, hit people because she knows that in the end her parents will not ground her and that shows that she does understand what she is doing. And not acting because she is wild, or a monster is just that it irritates her that she cannot communicate.

Longmore stated, “...Among the most persistent is the association of disability with malevolence. Deformities of body symbolize deformity of the soul. Physical handicaps are made with the emblems of evil”. In other words, disables are responsible for their disabilities and are represented as villains along with deformities to show that they are more of a monster than a

human. Films and TV shows represent disabled as less human to later justify the death of the disabled character as a way of relieving from pain or just the only solution to end their lives since the disabled character is no longer able to live with their disability. The representation of disability in the films and TV industry seems like being disabled is an inadequate way of living. However, Longmore proposed that there is more to a monstrous, criminal, villain character for a disabled person in films and TV shows since a disabled character does not stop the character from living their life as any other character of the story.

Furthermore, disabled people are prompt to be depicted in motion pictures like any disabilities they have are results of their evil self. Then it is used to avoid the idea that a disabled character is capable of having and doing whatever is that they want and need. But, also means that a disabled character can be the main characters because they deserved a happy ending with a family and any other type of things that any main character gets at the end of a story, movie or TV show. Since disabled characters can represent happiness, beauty, perfection and non-monstrosity characterization.

Livneh's research concludes that society views disabled people as the how and why they are depicted as monstrosities in movies and TV show. And what constituted that idea are the disabilities that the disabled character has which are viewed as flaws and imperfections. However, Livneh also mentions that people are afraid of the notion of monstrosity or deformities because they are not entirely open to the idea that what they see as monstrosity is, in fact, their anxiety, fears, and negativity that they have in themselves. Further, it allows the entertainment industry to keep portraying disabled characters as an uncontrollable monster because society has accepted that idea which encapsulates the other idea that disabled are people that represent a significant portion of the population.

In most movies and shows there is always a villain that brings out the intensity of the story. And the audience knows that in the end the villain will die or something terrible will happen to them. However, when a disabled is brought to a story is treated like a villain because many negative things happen to them and then, in the end, they are killed. For instance, in Game of Thrones, there was this character called Hodor a strong and significant in size character he was essential to the story he was not a villain, but he plays an important part of the story. Two years ago, during the sixth season of the show two seasons away from the finale they killed Hodor which for me was hard to watch. Even though he did not talk at all, he was important, however, to be honest, many people knew that he would die. But in my mind why did they killed Hodor because he has been in Game of Thrones from the beginning without any problem why the writers had to kill him but then after taking this course it made sense.

Hodor was disabled there was nothing else that he could do, or that could happen to him, of course, he has to have a horrific death. Hodor died protecting one of the main characters it was unjustifiable because he could have been happy around the people that cared about him. But once again he was this enormous monster that could knock out anyone and lift anything, but he could not have survived two more seasons. The irony of films and Tv shows to killed disabled characters for no reason it is unbelievable. Livneh's text mentioned that society has been watching this type of portrayals with no problem because once again society does not see faulty in the idea of killing the disabled characters.

In conclusion, disability imagery is used because physical anomaly can signal moral disintegration or the absence of a moral reason and because disability is a useful plot device that can explain the motivation for evil or monstrous characters. And one can see that it is intentional that the media points out those flaws to get more audience or to provoke pettiness in which it will

capture the person's attention. In the end, society has the power to stop the stigma of believing that monstrosity goes along with disability since being disabled means being different and nothing else.

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