

PRESUMED GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT: THE STUDY OF DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER IN KHADRA'S *THE ATTACK*

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Abstract

*With an emphasis on how the book creates, negotiates, and challenges the idea of being "presumed guilty," this study examines Yasmina Khadra's *The Attack* as a story of character defamation. The P.E.A.C.E. model, created by Shawar, Milne, and Bull, is essential to this inquiry because it offers a systematic framework for examining investigative procedures through its five stages: Planning and Preparation, Explaining and Engaging, Closing, and Evaluating. The study uses this model as a theoretical framework to examine how Khadra incorporates investigative elements into the fictional story to emphasize social perception, defamation, and the delicate line separating guilt and innocence. Researcher used a qualitative methodology, and this study examines significant passages in the book where the protagonist's integrity and identity are questioned by institutional and personal actors. According to the analysis, Khadra portrays defamation as a psychological and existential burden in addition to a legal or social phenomenon. The protagonist's battle serves as an example of how defamation damages interpersonal relationships, calls into question one's professional credibility, and worsens the suffering of those who are torn between suspicion and evidence. The results imply that *The Attack* functions as a multifaceted story of character defamation, where literary storytelling and investigative logic converge. The study highlights Khadra's capacity to highlight the damaging force of suspicion and the long-lasting effects of being stigmatized as guilty without adequate validation by referencing the P.E.A.C.E. model.*

Keywords: P.E.A.C.E. model, investigational theory, defamation of character, presumption of guilt, psychological suffering.

Introduction:

Literature is the reflection of society and this is the reason that authors around the world write about the things and matters that have not been discussed openly. Writers show us the ugly truth and bitter reality of the society and make us realize to look at the things that are being neglected and suffer in silence. It is the power of literature that it gives voice to the voiceless and makes it able to be heard and acknowledge. Khadra being the social conscious writer revealed the sufferings of presumed guilty that how society pushed someone into hell without knowing the reality. The study shows the alarming situation for the innocent community that only on the basis of religion someone is going through the presumption of guilt and this wrong presumption leads him into serious consequences. This is another story of intolerance and narrative of cruelty it means that innocent lives are only playing tools for the society and the heavy reliance of the genre fiction is easy to understand the circumstances of the two different religions and communities. Francken. J (2006).

Presumption of guilt is any presumption that is made by anyone not only within the criminal justice system that person is guilty of this crime unless or until proven innocent. The process of presumption of guilt is totally opposite to the presumption of innocence because both processes are based on different rights. In presumption of guilt the guilty must be have equal rights to defend him until proven guilty. (Herbert L Pecker). In presumption of guilt, jury must be convicted the guilty only on the bases of the proofs in trials. (Weaver J). Presumption of guilt only rose from the presumption of fact and this is how presumption have traditionally been classified and introduced. (Hickory V).

Amin Jaffrey, the protagonist, in *The Attack* is the victim of society and media. Media has portrayed him the guilty of his wife's act because of two reasons: firstly, he belongs to a Muslim community and secondly, he was living with Israeli community. The society has pressurized him and in this pressure he loosed his self-respect, job, reputation and it became the reason of defamation of his character. This research explores the difficulties of the presumed guilty who suffered not only at personal level as well as professional level. This study will also reveal and explore the ill treatment of the society towards the protagonists.

Defamation is an oral and written allegation that is based on false rumors. Besides that, presumed guilty is one that can be in the sight of doubt. Besides that, that person didn't prove as a real culprit. Hence, it stated that the reputation of one person can be substantial due to the community. Hence community passes the statement without acknowledging the truth of the story. So these rumors affect the life of the plaintiff. They even didn't recognize the effectiveness of their false rumors on the life of the plaintiff. *Gertz v. R. W* (1974)

In another study, it stated that truth is a thing of this world; it can be approached through different mindsets on the basis of their mental approach. Thus everybody works on the system of their own truth. Thus it is very important to understand that impact that is bogus and needs to be settled. Paul (1991) That's why it is necessary to provide a chance to the culprit to prove his stance. Meanwhile, the role of media is very important in making the impression of someone on the other people. Thus it means, that the fight is not about the essential truth, hence it can be done through the thoughts that invoke the other minds to start rivalry in the society.

For that reason, it stated that *The Attack* is one of the gendered terror novels. Thus it explains the comprehension of eth power of the forces on innocent people. Hence he said that it is a malicious act due to the power and resistance. McManus (2013). After that, this novel is all about the brutality of the colonized government over innocent people. Thus he explained the wickedness of eth sovereign system that rules innocent people and exploits their characters without any evidence. Souleymane (2017)

Hence, it proved that catastrophe of presumed guilty and defamation of characters are fitting within global as well as in the local context. At the global level, the issue of defamation of character is at a higher point in Australia, Canada, the United States, and England. But in the local context, the example of a university professor and his student out an accusation of harassment. Hence media portray him as the guiltiest one in the whole issue without knowing the truth of the whole story. Hence it leads him to death. Therefore, this study is significant to understand the state of power and knowledge through the dialogue of the characters of the story.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this research is to explore how Yasmina Khadra uses the concept of power and knowledge and human suffering to depict the defamation of the character of the presumed guilty

and construct the elements of resistance against power as well as explore the concept of the reaction of the audience by media reporting. Meanwhile, it will also explain how the gendered biased approach perpetrates misperception in *The Attack*.

1.1 Research Question

How power and knowledge as well as identity of the protagonist is creating issues for the innocent people in *Yasmina Khadra The Attack*?

1.1.1 Sub Question

How do media play its role in mass misperception?

How does power overrule innocent people?

How does society cause blue thoughts in people that consequent execution of suicide?

1.2 Limitation:

The following are the limitation and delimitations of this study such as:

The analysis of this research has been limited to only those parts of the novel which are related to the defamation of character of the Muslim character. Hence this study can be done in many ways such as terrorism etc. but this study is only limited to the portion of defamation of character of the presumed guilty.

Literature Review

In the UK, a conscious move away from coercive, confession-driven interrogation and towards non-coercive, information-gathering investigative interviewing gave rise to the P.E.A.C.E. model (Preparation & Planning; Engage & Explain; Account, Clarify & Challenge; Closure; Evaluation). In order to suggest interview formats that place more emphasis on rapport, open questioning, and accurate account elicitation than on combative confrontation, Milne and Bull's seminal work synthesized psychological research and police practice. Their explanation continues to be the most reliable theoretical and practical resource for comprehending the stages and justification of the model.

The model was improved and empirically evaluated in later work. According to national studies and evaluations conducted in the UK and other countries that have adopted P.E.A.C.E., interviewers trained in PEACE conduct better interviews (more thorough accounts, fewer coercive tactics), and each step improves results when carried out correctly. The impact of training and supervision, the variation in effectiveness across contexts (such as benefit-fraud interviews and child witness interviews), and the sporadic resistance that occurs when organizational cultures favor more traditional, confrontational approaches are all highlighted by empirical research. These contradictory but generally encouraging results highlight the fact that P.E.A.C.E. is best viewed as an organized, empirically supported interviewing philosophy as opposed to a one-size-fits-all procedure.

Public attribution of criminality (or morally repugnant behavior) can harm reputation even before legal guilt is established, as defamation law and commentary make evident. English and similar common-law systems have historically imposed burdens and shaped presumptions in ways that make it difficult to distinguish between an allegation and a proven fact. Human rights organizations have also emphasized how closely reputation and the presumption of innocence are related in situations involving defamation and the media. These legal systems show that "being treated as guilty" is a social and legal process with actual repercussions, which is a point that is pertinent to literary portrayals of reputational breakdown.

The most popular conceptual tool for analyzing how people acquire a tainted identity and become socially "spoilt" is Erving Goffman's classic formulation of stigma. Goffman demonstrates how stigma functions through social expectations, public labelling, and changed interpersonal interactions—processes that result in identity ruptures, internalized shame, and exclusion. By examining institutional and structural mechanisms that perpetuate stigma and empirically demonstrating the psychological and social harms caused by reputational harm, contemporary work on stigma builds on Goffman's work. Goffman gives literary critics a vocabulary to track how narrative events (exposure, rumor, and accusation) alter subjectivity and character relations. According to recent interdisciplinary research, literary works frequently dramatize legal-social processes, such as informal adjudication, public accusation, and reputational punishment. As a result, fiction can be used to analyses how presumption and defamation feel and work on a human level. To read how fictional interviews, interrogations, and community responses systematically produce defamation-as-process, however, relatively little work combines formal investigative models (such as P.E.A.C.E.) with stigma theory. This gap offers a chance to trace how narrative techniques enact and maintain presumption of guilt by fusing Goffmanian stigma theory with the procedural clarity of P.E.A.C.E.

A man's identity crises when he straddles conflicting national and personal affiliations; the social repercussions of political violence; the destructive effects of suspicion and disclosure on private life; betrayal and interior rupture are some of the themes that are highlighted in critical responses to *The Attack* and align with the legal and sociological literature mentioned above. Readers and academics observe that Khadra sets up a series of events that destabilize the protagonist's reputation, relationships, and self-perception: a suicide bombing, followed by institutional scrutiny, rumors, and private investigation.

Scholarly analyses of Khadra frequently highlight the book's psychological realism and moral ambivalence, as the protagonist's quest for knowledge reveals layers of secrecy, social pressure, and the uncomfortable intersection of political meaning and personal loyalty. However, rather than discussing the mechanics of accusation or how narrative structures replicate investigative stages (questioning, evidence presentation, institutional closure, evaluation), the majority of literary readings currently in existence concentrate on themes of radicalism, identity, and political causality. To put it briefly, critical work interprets the novel's themes of violence and identity in a rich way, but it hardly ever uses a procedural lens that would enable us to see how the book stages processes of interrogation and reputational damage.

This review reveals three gaps. First, although P.E.A.C.E. literature has been widely assessed in the contexts of criminal justice and policing, it is rarely employed as an interpretive framework in literary studies. Second, research on stigma, presumption of guilt, and defamation acknowledges the legal and social mechanisms that cause harm to one's reputation, but it rarely links these mechanisms to the distinct phases of investigative interviewing. Third, while Khadra criticism thoroughly examines radicalization and identity, it pays little attention to narrative strategies that mimic investigative dynamics and result in defamation as a narrative effect.

The current study fills these gaps by suggesting an interdisciplinary application of stigma theory (Goffman) in conjunction with the P.E.A.C.E. model to *The Attack*. This method reads narrative scenes of questioning, account-making, challenge, closure, and retroactive evaluation using the five stages of the model as analytical tools. By doing this, the novel's procedural texture of defamation will become clear, including how suspicion is aroused, how accounts are elicited and

contested, and how institutional and social closure lead to long-lasting harm to one's reputation. This methodological change is justified for two reasons: (1) the P.E.A.C.E. model's emphasis on avoiding presumptions of guilt is directly relevant to a text that is primarily concerned with presumption; and (2) combining P.E.A.C.E.

In 1992, the P.E.A.C.E. model was implemented in England and Wales as part of reforms after coercive interrogation techniques led to miscarriages of justice. Preparation and Planning, Engage and Explain, Account, Clarification and Challenge, Closure, and Evaluation are the words that make up the acronym. Its main objective is to obtain truthful and trustworthy accounts without using coercion or presumption of guilt (Milne & Bull, 1999). Because the model prioritized investigative interviewing over adversarial interrogation, scholars like Clarke and Milne (2001) contend that it brought about a paradigm shift. This change brings investigative methods into line with human rights principles by emphasizing justice, openness, and evidence collection.

The P.E.A.C.E. framework enhances interview quality and lowers the possibility of false confessions, according to empirical research conducted in various jurisdictions (Walsh & Bull, 2010). For example, Walsh and Bull's extensive research on benefit fraud interviews showed that interviewers who strictly followed the P.E.A.C.E. principles were able to get more thorough and accurate accounts than those who used unstructured methods. In Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, where police forces have partially adopted the model, comparable outcomes have been reported (Williamson, 2006).

The presumption of innocence is a cornerstone of justice, yet literature on legal practice reveals how easily it is undermined by institutional bias, media narratives, or community suspicion (Ashworth, 2006). In legal terms, defamation occurs when false statements damage an individual's reputation, but sociological perspectives broaden the concept to include the stigma attached to allegations, regardless of their truth.

This is expanded to political and cultural contexts by modern research. Greer and McLaughlin (2012) point out, for instance, how the media frequently presents people as guilty before trial, hastening reputational harm. Similar to this, research on counterterrorism law (Pantazis & Pemberton, 2009) contends that discourses of suspicion and security have the power to stigmatize entire communities. These viewpoints are directly applicable to Khadra's story, in which the protagonist becomes estranged from both his personal and professional networks due to a spiral of defamation stemming from suspicion of terrorism.

Research Methodology

This research is based on qualitative study to explore the effects of defamation of character in the novel. Basically, it is argumentative and descriptive research in nature in which different concept of power and knowledge theory explained the points of defamation in the selected novel. It explored the concept of presumed guilty until proven innocent regarding to the facts of defamation of character of the main lead of the novel *The Attack* by Yasmina Khadra. All the point analyzed through closed reading technique to highlight the major concept. This study followed APA style for citation.

Theoretical framework:

1. The P.E.A.C.E. Model

The P.E.A.C.E. model (Preparation and Planning, Engage and Explain, Account, Closure, and Evaluation) was initially created for investigative interviews in law enforcement. It offers a methodical framework for examining how suspicion, interrogation, and presumption of guilt

function in the novel. The research demonstrates how Khadra dramatizes defamation as an investigative process by projecting the protagonist's interactions with institutions and society onto the model's stages.

Achieving best evidence	PEACE
Planning and preparation	Planning and preparation
Establishing rapport	Engage and explain
Initiating and supporting a free narrative account questioning	Account, clarify and challenge
Closing the interview	Closure
Evaluation	Evaluation

Planning and Preparation:

The P.E.A.C.E. model's first step highlights how crucial it is to prepare before the investigative interview. Before questioning a suspect, interviewers are advised to plan ahead, set goals, and gather all relevant information. Literarily speaking, this phase can be mapped onto Khadra's *The Attack*, where presumptions about the protagonist are made by society and institutions before any supporting evidence is offered. The story illustrates how preconceived notions, biases, and stereotypes influence guilt perceptions, reflecting the preconceived biases in actual investigations.

Engage and explain:

Developing a relationship and making sure the interviewee comprehends the procedure are the main goals of this step. However, the protagonist in Khadra's text experiences the opposite: he is deprived of clarity and the chance to interact with the media or authorities on an equal basis. This P.E.A.C.E. principle is broken when his presumed guilt is presented as a *fait accompli*. This contrast demonstrates how a departure from fair engagement results in character tarnishing and the weakening of the rule of law.

Account, clarify and challenge:

In account elicitation, the interviewee provides a free, unrestricted narrative that is subsequently verified by evidence. External accusations and political discourses overshadow the protagonist's story in the book, preventing him from offering his own account of what happened. This illustrates how the fairness that the P.E.A.C.E. model promotes is undermined by societal "interrogations" that silence voices and predetermine guilt.

Closure and evaluation:

Respectful conclusion, information summarisation, and giving the interviewee a chance to clarify are the main goals of the closure phase. Closure never comes in *The Attack*. Rather, the main character is denounced without any opportunity for explanation, emphasising how disregarding this rule results in the continuation of defamation. In literary analysis, this reveals how social institutions shape truth narratives, reinforcing the connection between fictional depictions of injustice and law enforcement models.

Analysis and Discussion:

In this chapter, the researcher has analyzed the defamation of character of Muslims in Khadra's *The Attack*. This chapter is divided into two portions; the sufferings of presumed guilty and the consequences of defamation of character. The purpose of this chapter is to find out the consequences of defamation of character and presumed guilt by using the model P.E.A.C.E of Shawar, Milne and Bull.

Preparation and planning:

This step focused on the planning of the investigation that how it is going to happen step by step. Most importantly, police investigators or interviewers need to come up with a plan to scrutinize the incident side by side. Furthermore, the author of the novel also set up the storyline in a sequence that highlights the planning of cops to come and investigate the incident. Meanwhile, the investigation leads them to find out the suspect. The storyline builds up with the bomb blast in Tel Aviv and policemen were coming in hurriedly to find out the reason of attack. In that line, policemen are coming and going in a sort of hushed frenzy. The silence is filled with the crackling static of their radios. (18) After that they have started investigation and interrogated people to find out the reason of bombarding. Police behavior toward the suspect that is the protagonist of the novel Amin Jafri was very mistreating. In this line, it can be clearly seen that police saw him with a doubted eye and said "you can't stay here" (19) he tells in commanding voice. In this line, "he sweeps my car with his flashlight, lets it linger for a while on my license plate, and then turns it on me. Instinctively, he takes a small step backward and puts his free hand on his pistol" (20). This whole sentence shows the innocence of Amin as he doesn't know anything about his wife act and the police investigation seems so threatening towards his character without any single proof.

In this point, police have to make a plan and investigate the situation properly but context of the novel is not upholding the statement because investigation started in abrupt situation. Police hasn't given him any warrant or informed him and started investigation. So, the plot of the novel didn't comply with the point of the model.

Engage and explain:

In this step, investigators need to investigate the situation fairly without any biasedness. They have to make sure that they are doing their duty honestly and complying with all the duties by maintaining the decency of the accepted laws. Fair investigation means, investigator need to be more careful during investigation. It is the right of the suspect to understand that they will be investigated fairly without any biasedness and manipulation. So it is also the responsibility of the investigator to behave in an appropriate situation. But it seems that, author critically scrutinize the ways of investigation by highlighting the concept of investigation of the protagonist. He examines the pressure of the investigator on the suspect and how they have tortured him physically and emotionally and accused him for being involved with his wife act. This model assures that investigation should be done in fair situation but the context of the novel is not supporting this

point. The author pointed out the ways of investigation that how they interrogated the suspect, arrested him and tried to manipulate him in several ways? in these lines, Hence they said that” our preliminary investigation indicates that the massive injuries sustained by your wife are typical to those found on the bodies of a fundamentalist suicide bomber” (32). So they only cleared the matter by judging her body bruises and blaming him to be a part of her heinous act.

He even doesn't know that her wife was a part of this type of activity. He was ruined completely without knowing anything. So it was difficult for him to have patience as his life become hell. Nobody was supporting him and weirdly seeing him. The police behavior towards the suspect was not appropriate and that was so annoying because it was the matter of someone's reputation in the society. This line seems cringe for the suspect when he saw the investigator calling him and saying him “don't make any sudden movements; I want to see your hand on the steering wheel. What do you do here?” (20) That's why it sounds terrible for suspects when they found pressure without knowing what is happening behind their backs. On the other hand, the protagonist was not the suspect due to any crime but he was under investigation due to his Muslim identity. That is very much disturbing and alarming for everyone that you are getting investigated due to your identity even you are the resident of that place. So author has pointed out the flaws of European attitude towards the Muslim community. That's why, Khadra points out the situation of Muslim suspect that he suffers in his life due to his identity and become guilty due to investigating pressure as well.

The point is investigator should be cleared in his mind and in his verbal talks as well. But it doesn't seem good with the reference to the context of the novel that they are interrogating the suspect and accusing him due to his identity and religion. So it doesn't sound that this point is valid to the context of the novel as investigator has already made up a mind to engage the suspect identity with the incident and interrogate him with a very biased approach. In these lines of the context, it becomes clear the investigation was not done with fair perception. “The second cop shines his light on me, examining me with baleful, mistrustful eyes. He checks the papers and points his light at my face again. My Arab name disturbs him. The cops are nervous and suspicious faces exacerbate their predispositions. “(20). So, it proves that, cop arrested him on the basis of his identity and already made up the mind that he is the culprit. After that, cops pushed him as he faced the brutal side of the investigation. Hence author explained the investigation pattern of the cops in these lines “he pushes me roughly against the roof, kicks my legs apart and subjects me to a methodical search” (20)

After that, he again gets checked by the police officers as his existence was becoming questionable for everyone. He experienced the doubted gaze of the police officers towards him when he was going home. He said that “I have been stopped by four police patrols along the way; each of them went over me and my car with a fine-toothed comb. It was no use of showing my papers and announcing my profession; the cops had eyes only for my face” (21). So, it sounds that the investigation was being held on the basis of his identity and claimed him the suspect on such basis as well.

It was so disgusting that people make fun of you when you are in your worst phase of life and the same happened to Amin Jafri. Police were mistreating him after spreading the half-baked story of the Amin wife. In these lines “I hope you don't mind if I some. She really amazed you, didn't she?” (36) These two sentences sound like he was mocking him. He was taunting him that he is a

culprit and he knew what his wife was doing. But eventually, he was innocent and serving his duty honestly.

It sounds awkward when someone doubted your intention and confidently said things that are not even proven. As the policeman said “it is so absurd, so stupid...in your opinion, was there a chance of dissuading her? You surely knew all about her little project, didn’t you?” (36). these were the most disturbing questions for him as he even doesn’t know what he wants to know. He was not in his senses to cooperate with him.

He was again questioned by the police that make him the guilty one in society as well. In this sentence such as “I believe I am being quite clear. Don’t look at me like that. You are not going to try to make me believe that you didn’t know anything, are you?” (36). It seems that the policeman imposing his opinion on him and trying to make him guilty and suspect in others eyes.

Accounts, clarification and challenge:

During investigation, investigator has to be cleared in his thoughts and assumptions as well. He has to explore the ways of proper investigation that will deal with grain detail, checkable facts as well as appropriate questioning style. After that you have to clarify the situation and investigation as well. for that purpose, investigator need to set objectives of the interrogation before going for investigation so he has to be able to interrogate the person fairly.

Furthermore, the investigator challenge is to fill up all the gaps by collecting information from other resources as well. So that is the crux of the whole point. Thus point is not valid for this context as investigator didn’t follow any rules and regulation and start interrogation. Meanwhile, he has the authority to deal with the suspect calmly but he doesn’t follow the law and tried to make him guilty in his own eye by throbbing out numerous questions at same time. The reason behind doing investigation fairly is to move out the case smoothly but it doesn’t happen in the context of the novel.

The cope has not questioned him properly but trying to impose those questions on him. Besides that, the investigator didn’t check out the facts and figures of the case only blamed him because that incident was done by the suspect wife. So, the whole investigation seems distorted and misinterpreting as the questions were not clear and it seems that investigator was investigating the suspect due to his identity. Once he experienced the inappropriate attitude of the investigator as he questioned about his religion and trying to make him realized that his religion is the main cause behind all the bad things that happened.

There is another important aspect that is being Muslim is also seems doubting. Hence, the vision of the Muslim community in Israel is very sleek as it makes them insecure. So, both Amin and his wife were Muslims so they become more prominent in their eyes. Hence, the policeman questions their religion as well and said that “are you a practicing Muslim religion, Dr. Jafri?” (39). so he was portraying him as the guilty one on the basis of being Muslim. Another question that gives him a shock as the policeman said “did she observe Ramadan? So your activities are also making you in doubt as you are Muslim. So making a Muslim protagonist character defaming is easier as compared to other ones. His investigation was for so long time where he noticed the actions and impression of the policeman, “he was blowing some smoke in my face” (39). It was so distrustful situation for Amin to have a strong grip on his emotions as he was emotionally and physically weak due to his wife unproven incident everybody was questioning him as he said thousands of times that he didn’t know anything about his wife doing.

Mr. Amin was trying to defend his wife as he said that what are you talking about? It wasn't her, it couldn't have been her" (38) and the return questions were in more power that make him silent as the policeman said and why not? Why not her? "So it was very difficult for him to defend his right and prove him innocent as he was trying to impose his question on him and trying to put him in a difficult situation. He even doesn't know about his wife doing but he was getting the blame and defamed by the investigating team that was not good for his reputation and character.

On the other hand, investigators have the authority to ask wide range of questions but they have to make sure that questions are not derogatory and sound unfair or oppressive. They have to ask the questions but they don't have the right to manipulate the suspect or victim. Furthermore, investigators need to be fairer while asking question that doesn't seem appropriate according to the context of the novel. The author of the novel arranged the plot in such a way that highlights the point of inappropriate behavior of the cops and investigation towards the suspect. He highlighted the ways that how the Muslim identity suffered in his life only due to his identity. This novel reveals the implications of the investigation that suspects as feeling pressurized and getting mental torture during investigation.

In this novel, interrogation started with multiple questions that were waiting for the suspect and he was denying all the allegations but it was of no use for him. Furthermore, he was being pressurized during investigation and feeling guilty as well as everybody was seeing him and calling him culprit. The captain of the investigation team said that "your wife didn't go into the restaurant to have a snack; she went there to have a blast" (40) it sounds that captain of the investigation team was on a horse ride and making his assumptions and trying to put him in a pressure so he accepts the situation and put him behind the bars. But he doesn't do that, he was continuously saying that this assumption is wrong and he is not involved in any kind of activity.

The model claimed that, investigation should be done in a fair way where suspect should feel ease and comfortable. But the storyline of the novel is not approving this point and author highlight the circumstances of the interrogation. He pointed out the sufferings of the suspects that were blamed due to the identity. During interrogation he was not getting treated properly as he found out that he was being naked and slept whole night in this situation. He said that "I am hungry, I am thirsty, I ache, and I didn't see the end of the tunnel anywhere. A wave of nausea nearly caused me to smash my face against the toilet bowl". (44) It means nobody gave him the option to sleep easily as he was invested continuously and facing the unbearable torture. It was very painful for someone that you are being questioned out without having any idea about that situation. The same was going happening with the Muslim character Amin that was facing the brutality of the Israeli police for being questioned about his integrity and loyalty to the country as well. He suffered a lot even he was not involved in any activity. He was investigated without any sleep as he said that He was being questioned out of his wife actions as he really doesn't know about it. In this line" where did she spend those last three days? Where did she go? And where she was?" (46).

So, basically he was disturbed and not in his normal state to find out the real reason behind all the issues. So he clearly denied all doubted allegation that the police were accusing him as he said that "I don't know what time it is., or even whether it is day or night. They took my watch away" (46). So, he was facing the most difficult time without having any idea about the issue. That was a real torture for him and his struggle to prove himself innocent. Because already it was embedded in everyone mind that he knew about his wife act. So everybody blamed him and questioned him

about his wife actions. He was facing all the difficulties alone that were a terrible situation for him as well.

It is very painful when someone points out your personal relationships. When police investigated him and questioned him about his marital life with him. He doubted their personal relationships as he said "your marital relation was....." (47). He even can't bear to hear this false statement. So he cut him off and rapidly answered that "my wife doesn't have any lover" (47). So, it was so disgusting for him to hear such a statement about his wife from any one. So he was struggling and facing all the allegations with patience.

The questions of the investigator were derogatory for him as some questions was not bearable for him as well that was being asked by the investigator. So he was trying to keep himself calm and relaxed in such difficult situation but he found out that captain of the investigating team is not giving him any margin because he was treating him in a very bad way. The captain has asked this question that sounds insulting for him and making him crazy and ill.

The captain was trying to make him accept his not-proven mistake but he also didn't give him the chance and face him with full confidence as well. He told him that you are making the whole story to prove yourself right but don't worry he is not going to accept this shit from him. He asked that "real secrets are not shared" (47). Again the captain was poking him and continuously asking the same thing and trying to make him speak what he want to hear. He again points out this personal relationship with his wife as he said that "I simply refuse to swallow this story. How can you say that you didn't notice anything unusual in your wife behavior recently? Either you two living under the same roof or not?" (49). He was making him sick to pass out such questions and make him answer all the unknown things that were not in his consideration.

Evaluation:

Investigator has the right to get all the accurate information's that is reliable for further research. So, they have to evaluate the situations, incidents, questionnaires' and the facial expression of the suspect during interrogation to understand the stance of the proceeding. But for that, it is true that you have to be fairer during your investigation method. Investigator should reach to the suspect by keeping the personal agendas and biasedness at a side.

In the context, the investigation was abrupt sound anti-Islamic as the suspect suffers due to his identity. The method of investigation was also not acceptable because the way investigator treated the suspect doesn't comply under the module of this model. The suspect was not found guilty during interrogation that why he got bailed. But the way police have treated him give him a mental trauma that he lives on until his death. After his bail, he was living in his own shell as he stated that "I no longer need someone to put a hand on my shoulder. I didn't want to see anyone not anyone on my side, not anyone on the other side" (51). So, he was out of the prison cell but he is bound in his mental prison. So, he lost hope and tried to cut himself from everyone because nobody was supporting him. It was difficult for him to stay at such places where everybody was treating him with disgust and hate. So he left the place to find a better place for living. It makes him weaker as he lost confidence and patience to face the community that gets turned against him. This whole incident makes him bitterer as he lost faith in every relation, and religion as well he said that "I lost faith in His holy men (118). He made friends and served that nation with full passion and enthusiasm but one doubtful incident changed his complete life and make him evil for them.

Conclusion:

In summary, *The Attack* by Yasmina Khadra is more than just a story about terrorism; it is a potent indictment of institutional and societal structures that malign people based on their identity rather than proof. This study has demonstrated how poor investigative procedures reinforce injustice, magnify suffering, and undermine the idea of "innocent until proven guilty" by using the P.E.A.C.E. model. Thus, this thesis emphasizes the value of justice, fairness, and ethical responsibility in both literature and life, in addition to making a contribution to literary studies.

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