

RELATIONSHIPS AFFECTED BY POSTCOLONIAL SOCIAL NORMS IN HANIF KUREISHI'S 'WITH YOUR TONGUE DOWN MY THROAT'

Tomris KARDEŞ ALPER¹

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ferma LEKESİZALIN²

ÖZ

Koloncilik sonrası yazarların en çok tanınmış yazarlarından biri olarak bilinen Hanif Kureishi eserlerinde koloncilikten ve bunların insanlar üzerindeki etkilerinden duyduğu rahatsızlıkları eserlerinde dile getirmiştir. Kendisi de melez olduğu için kendi yaşadıklarını eserlerinde açığa vurduğu varsayılır. Bilindiği gibi koloncilik sonrası dönem koloncilığın insanlar üzerinde süregelen etkileri üzerine odaklanır. Bu arada kalmışlık durumunu iyi bilen ve deneyimleyen Kureishi, bu insanların Doğuya da Batıya da ait olmadıklarını öne sürer ve bu ait olma hissini olmamasının ilişkilerini çok yoğun bir şekilde etkilediğini savunur. Bu makalede Kureishi'nin 'With Your Tongue Down the Throat' eseri ile okuyucu, bu arada kalmışlığın aileler ve çocuklar üzerindeki etkisini görüp, bu karakterlerin kendi değiştirilme şekillerinin ve etraflarındaki sosyal kuralların etkisi altında olduklarına şahitlik edecektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Post Koloncilik, Ebeveynlik, Sosyal kurallar, İlişkiler, Aidiyet*

ABSTRACT

Hanif Kureishi known as one of the most prominent authors of post-colonial writing describes his frustrations and disturbances on the effects of colonialism on people through his works. Having a mixed race, it is thought that he unravels what he experiences in his own life. As is known postcolonialism is an approach that focuses on the lasting impact of colonialism on people. As a person knowing and experiencing this state of in-betweenness, he thinks that these people do not belong to either East or West, not having this sense of belonging affects their relationships to a great extent. In this paper, the reader will witness the effect of it on the relationships between parents and children and will grasp the reality that these people are under the control of their upbringing and social norms around them through Kureishi's "With Your Tongue Down the Throat".

Keywords: *Post Colonialism, Parenthood, Social Norms, Relationships. Belonging*

INTRODUCTION

This paper deals with relationships between the daughters and a father whose name is never mentioned in the story, which can be considered as a way to criticize the colonizer which does affect the relationships in all ways. In this way the relationship of the father with Nadia and Nina and the relationships of these two with their mothers will be the focus of my analysis in this story. Thus, the parenthood along with the daughter's own perspective will be depicted and clarified. This analysis will be done through the post colonialist perspective.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE PARENTS AND THE DAUGHTERS

1 M.A. Student at Social Sciences Institute, Istanbul Aydın University (IAU); Istanbul; Turkey.

Correspondence: tomriskardes@stu.aydin.edu.tr

2 İstanbul Aydın University (IAU); Istanbul; Turkey. Correspondence:

fermalekesizalin@aydin.edu.tr

In “With Your Tongue Down My Throat”, there are four different relationships between the parents and the daughters. First of all, the Western part, the connection between Nina and her mother – Deborah – will be depicted in terms of mother- daughter relationship. Then, the relationship between Nina and her father is seen. When the Eastern, Pakistan part of the story is taken into consideration, the readers witness the relationship between Nadia and her father.

As stated in the previous chapters, Nina lives with her mother, Deborah, in London. She is aware that her father lives in Pakistan with his wife and three daughters, one of them is Nina’s half-sister, Nadia. Nina is born and raised as an only child by a single mother. That is why, she has just one parent, and in return, Deborah has an only child. Nina is oblivious that she has a half-sister living in another country, until she is eleven. Nina states this as a joyful moment in her life:

All my life I’ve been this only child living here in a council place with Ma, the drama teacher. I was an only child, that is, until I was eleven, when Ma says she has a surprise for me, one of the nicest I’ve ever had. I have a half-sister the same age, living in another country. (Kureishi 1987, p.62)

Nina feels happy after having learnt that she has a sister at the same age with her although the sister lives in another country. From this ‘nicest surprise’, it can be deduced that Nina needs some other people to feel the sense of belonging that a family has. Probably Ma, on her own, does not enough for Nina after some time. When Nina has a chat with Howard – Ma’s boyfriend – she has some ideas about her sister, Nadia. She imagines her sister;

A girl materialises sitting under a palm tree, reading a Bronte novel and drinking yogurt. I see a girl being cuddled by my father. He tells stories of tigers and elephants and rickshaw wallahs. I see... ‘I can’t see any more!’ Because I can’t visualise Nadia, I have to see her. (p.63)

From Nina’s statement, it is understood that she is eager to meet her sister. She realizes that it is a must for her to see and meet her sister. She thinks about her and daydreams her. After some time, merely thinking is not enough for Nina. She is in need of meeting Nadia. Nina wants someone else related to the ‘family’. She wants to feel the sense of having family like other people. She wishes for another member of a family that’s why she is really willing to meet her in all senses.

Before Ma and Nina have a letter from the father they have a conversation which shows the reader their relationship more or less. When Nina says that she does not like eating, her mother tries to give some advice to her. “But the palate is a sensitive organ,” Ma says. “You should cultivate yours instead of— “Just stop talking if you’ve got to fucking lecture.” (p.64). From these lines it can be perceived that the relationship between Deborah and Nina is not a classical interaction that may exist between a mother and a daughter. Nina swears to Ma and blames her for giving lectures. Nina does not need to get any advice. Unlike what is expected, she does not have a respectful approach to her mother. There is not the connection that an ordinary mother-daughter; she does not live with her father as well, that’s why when the letter comes from the father, it is significant that Nina’s father sends the most important thing in his life to Nina and Deborah and it is Nadia, he states his feelings saying “Look after her, she is the most precious thing in the entire world to me.” (p.64). It is obvious that although Nina is also the daughter of the same father, he sees no drawback to write that Nadia is the most vital thing in his life. The father does not consider that Nina can feel sorry because of his lines. From this letter, it is understood that for the father Nina has no importance at all. His one and only is Nadia and there is no inconveniency of stating this in his letter to Nina and Deborah.

Through the end of the first part, after Nina and Deborah read the letter from the father, Deborah changes her mind and decides to accept Nadia as a guest to her home. She wants Nina to write a letter to her father and writes Deborah's decision. After she tells this idea to Nina, Nina gets mad and threatens her mother:

“‘Because, Nina, I’m not at all prepared for this. I really don’t know that I want to see this sister of yours. She symbolises my betrayal by your father.’

‘Symbolises?! I say. ‘But she’s a person.’

I’m very severe. Get this: ‘Ma, Nadia’s coming. Or I’m going. I’m walking right out that door and it’ll be junk and prostitution just like the old days.’

She drops her bag. She sits down. She slams her car keys on the table. ‘Nina, I beg you.’”(pp.64-65)

This conversation reveals a lot of realities to the reader about Nina. She is extremely willing to see her half-sister and spend time with her in London. It is like a reaction to Deborah and to her father. Nina seems like she needs someone else from the family to see. When Deborah has hesitations about seeing Nadia, she asserts that she remembers the father's betrayal. However, it does not affect Nina at all. She does not care about her mother's past relationship with her father and the betrayal of her father. She does not empathize with Deborah. Nina has no pity for her mother. She is like a spoiled child and utters threats to her mother instead of understanding her feelings about Nadia. From these lines it can be deduced that Nina does not have a proper life, school or job. She warns her mother about going back to be a junk and doing prostitution again. In contrast to Nina's brutality towards her mother, Deborah does not answer her with the same cruelty. She gives up and begs Nina to understand her and accept her idea to refuse Nadia, which does not happen. It is quite strange that Nina saddens her own mother because of a half-sister that she has never seen before. She does not have any idea about Nadia, whether she is a good person or a bad one and whether they get on well with each other or not. However, for Nina, it is not abnormal to make her mother disappointed. Nina is not afraid of losing Deborah due to her wicked utterances. Deborah is her mother and Nina is sure that whatever she does, Deborah is there for her. Her availability any time for her makes Deborah worthless for Nina.

In the second part of the story, Nadia comes to England and Nina feels adored and in love towards her sister: “I think I’m in love. At last.” (p.67). It can be seen strange that Nina has intense feelings about a total stranger, Nadia and her presence in London, in Nina's home. Nina needs a person, a thing to fill the emptiness in her life and Nadia rescues her. Later on, the story continues about the ideas of Nina towards her mother. Nina thinks that Deborah is good, gentle and cannot understand unkindness and violence. Nina utters it as follows.

‘This way we’ll change the world a little bit,’ she’d say, holding my hand and knocking on doors at elections. But she’s lived on the edge of a nervous breakdown for as long as I can remember. She’s had boyfriends before Howard and most of them were married because she was on this liberated kick of using men. Men flee when they saw the deep needy well that Ma is, crying out to be filled with their love. And this monster kid with green hair glaring at them. Howard’s too selfish and arrogant to be frightened of my ma’s demands. He just ignores them. (p.67)

Above, Nina expresses her ideas about Deborah. She is kind and gentle; however, she is always on the edge of a nervous breakdown, according to Nina. Deborah uses men because she is a free person, and she has excessive desires from men that no men can bear her. Howard is a selfish one and he does not care about Deborah. That is why he is still with Deborah. Nina's cruel explanations about her mother is thought provoking. It is clearly seen that Nina is the monster kid and asks Ma's boyfriends about their wives. Deborah uses men and wants extreme love from them and although she always seems kind and good, she is nervy; according to Nina. The readers do not know why Nina is so brutal about explaining

her mother and her relationships. In the end, she clarifies that Howard also does not give enough importance to Deborah that he ignores the wishes of her and continues dating with her without meeting her needs. It is clearly seen that Nina's thoughts about her mother is not a healthy one. However, Deborah's accepting Nina home is a sign of the culture she lives in. Even though she remembers the father's betrayal, she accepts her in a way.

Nina and Nadia wander around London. Nina shows the neighbourhood to Nadia and Nina imagines talking to their father: "Daddy, these are the sights I show my sister." (p.69). It can be obviously witnessed that Nina and the father does not have regular communication; however, Nina is deeply in need of it. She aspires a good relationship with her father. She needs to feel closer to her father and that is why she utters "daddy" (p.69). In contrast, as it is remembered from the father's letter, Nadia is the most precious person in his life. There is no reference to Nina at all. Nina's subconscious desire to be loved by her father is not mutual. The father has a family and daughters which shows that he does not need Nina for anything.

When the half-sisters continue wandering in London Nina wants to learn more about her father and his thoughts about herself. She asks it to Nadia. Then, Nina feels pretty sad about her father's horrible ideas about her:

'Oh, he was worried, worried, worried.'

'Christ. Worried three times.'

'He said, all right, he said you were like a wild animal!'

'Like a wild animal?' I say.

'Yes. And sometimes he wished he could shoot you to put you out of your misery.' She looks straight ahead of her. 'You asked for it. You made me say it.'

'The bastard. His own daughter.' (p.72)

These lines show the reader the desperate situation Nina is in. She is so eager to hear anything about her father since she cannot see him very often and she lives without him. She needs to know something from a person who has close relationships with her father, Nadia. However, when Nina learns that his father pities her and wants to shoot her to end her so-called misery, she feels awful. Nadia continues to tell the bad news by saying the father's likening Nina to a wild animal. In the end, Nina cannot believe that her father tells these kinds of things to his own daughter. As it is understood, Nina's need of father love is obvious. She wants to have some news about him, she wonders about his thoughts about her. However, the same interest is not seen from the father's side. For the father, Nina is a mistake. He comes to London years ago and has a love affair with Deborah. Since the father does not want or expect a new child, he does not give any importance or proper father love to Nina. He has two more daughters who were born before Nadia and Nina are born. The love Nina and the father expect from each other is not at the same level. Nina does not anticipate these ideas from her own father; in addition; he does not behave like an ordinary father.

Nina remembers the old days when her father visits London and stays with Nina and Deborah. Before mentioning the old days Nina utters "Well, what a bastard my dad turned out to be! Wild animal! He's no angel himself. How could he say that? I was always on my best behaviour and always covered my wrists and arms." (p.73). Nina is righteously angry with her father. She is sad about his ideas and at the same time she thinks that he is a whoreson. Although she pays attention to the Islamic rules, Eastern rules when her father visits them, he does not seem to appreciate of this behaviour of Nina. Nina thinks of the old days. She states that she and her mother feel very excited when the father visits them. They spend time together, eat out in expensive French restaurants, receive many presents from the father, listens the stories

from the father and most importantly, she feels like a family. Nina finishes this illusion by stating: “Why does he always have to be leaving us?” (p.73). As it is apparently seen, Nina needs a family as a whole, not just her mother. She longs for the father figure even though the reality of her real father is not as kind as she imagines. While we see Nina’s feelings, we are not given any clues about the father’s ideas. We can assume that the Western part of the father is in the past and it is like an adventure for him. He does not think Nina and Deborah as his real family since he is an Easterner and all the other family members of him are pure Easterners, too. They are not strangers like Nina and Deborah.

After remembering the old days with her father, Nina continues: “After one of these occasions I go out, missing him. When alone, I talk to him. At five in the morning I get back. At eight Ma comes into my room and stands there, a woman alone and everything like that, in fury and despair.” (p.73). From these lines, one can infer that Nina does not give even the half of the affection she feels towards her father to her mother. Nina misses his father and imagines talking to him on the streets. When it comes to her mother, she describes her as an alone and a furious woman. Nina probably blames her mother inwardly. The situation of living without a father is Deborah’s guilt. She leaves her after learning that the father has another life and family in Pakistan. It is because of her mother that Nina has to live with the absence of her father. When Deborah comes to Nina’s room at eight, she asks Nina about her involvements in drugs and prostitution. Nina accepts this. She does not try to deny the accusations. She goes out with guys for money and she calls it ‘work’ despite Deborah’s objection. Nina mentions about her suicide attempts and adds: “Suicide is one way of saying you’re sorry.” (p.74). What is she sorry for? What kind of life does she expect and cannot find? What can be the solutions of her sorrow? These questions are not totally answered in the story. It is not known accurately what Nina wishes for.

Deborah and Nina host Nadia at their house. One day Deborah comes home from school and Nadia and Howard chat on the sofa too friendly. Nina is at home also and she leaves some food for Deborah. Nina understands that Deborah feels worried because of Howard and Nadia’s sincerity. It is stated as Nina and Deborah talk;

‘You’ve always been good in that way, I’ll give you that. Even when you were sick you’d do the cooking. I’d come home and there it would be. I’d eat it alone and leave the rest outside your door. It was like feeding a hamster. You can be nice.’

‘Are you sure?’

‘Only your niceness has to live among so many other wild elements. Women that I know. Their children are the same. A tragedy or a disappointment. Their passions are too strong. It is our era in England. I only wish you could have some kind of career or something.’ (p.76)

This is the first time Deborah says negative things to Nina. She compares Nina to a hamster and Deborah both praises Nina for cooking and criticizes for not having a career. Deborah gives examples from the other women’s children. They are also a tragedy or a disappointment, just like Nina. Until this conversation, Nina behaves badly to Deborah. In this conversation, it is seen that Deborah is not also very pleased with having a daughter like Nina. They continue talking about Howard. Nina wonders why Deborah is together with Howard. That is the point Deborah bursts to Nina.

‘I need someone bright to talk to! D’you think I can talk to you? D’you think you’d ever be interested in me for one minute?’

‘Ma—’

‘You’ve never cared for me! And then you brought Nadia here against my wishes to be all sweet and hypercritical and remind me of all the terrible past and the struggle of being alone for so long!’ (p.77)

Deborah is furious because of Nadia and Howard’s close friendship and Nina’s persistence to bring Nadia to London. These are all because of Nina. Nina insists on meeting with Nadia a lot and she wants to sit and chat together with Deborah’s boyfriend. Nina’s mother accuses Nina of not understanding and caring her. She is a mother and a human. She cannot give compassion to Nina all the time. Sometimes, she needs to be given love, affection and interest, too. Nina never does this, according to Deborah. That is why she needs Howard. Besides, Nina is not knowledgeable enough to have some conversations. She is not Deborah’s dream daughter. After Nina gets her answer about Howard from her mother, she warns Nadia to lay off Howard (p.77). He is Nina’s mother’s boyfriend. Nina feels herself responsible of Nadia’s behaviours. She feels that she needs to protect her mother from Nadia’s interest towards Howard.

Through the end of the story’s second part, Nina understands that Nadia and Howard kiss each other. Nina cannot accept this as a normal behaviour and gets angry to Nadia even she claims that she is in love with someone else. (p.80). The half-sisters continue spending time together and Nina takes drugs. When Nadia realizes that Nina feels awful and Nadia tries to help her:

Why are you crying?’If our father could see us now.

‘Your bad behaviour with Howard makes me cry for my ma.’

‘Bad behaviour? Wait till I tell my father –‘

‘Our father –‘

‘About you.’

‘What will you say?’

‘I’ll tell him you’ve been a prostitute and a drug addict.’

‘Would you say that, Nadia?’

‘No,’ she says, eventually. ‘I suppose not.’ (p.81)

After this conversation, Nadia decides to go home, and Nina agrees with her. (p.81) by referring to Pakistan as her home. It is normal for Nadia to mention about Pakistan as home. However, it is not Nina’s home. From these lines on the one hand it can be inferred that Nina is afraid of losing her value in her father’s point of view, on the other hand it reminds us of the aforementioned Homi Bhabha’s quote who states that such colonized people do not feel either West or East (1994 p.45). Nina by clinging to Nadia in such a fervent way shows that she wants a sense of belonging to somewhere, she is in quest of the unknown. She wants to be in good terms with the father, their father, not just Nadia’s because he is unknown to her compared to Deborah. Nina imagines that the father sees the half-sisters while quarrelling, and feel ashamed. She does not want to be a ‘bad child’ and Nadia should not tell anything bad about her to the father. Nina wants to be the favourite one also. She needs her father’s love, interest and affection. That is why, at the end of this part, she also says “home” to Pakistan where her one and only father lives. As Kaleta states: “Nina now sees herself as a part of her dream, the princess of her tradition. Since the dream of Elsewhere has alluded her as a hybrid Londoner, she dreams she can find it by accepting her Asian heritage.” (Kaleta 1998, p.149). Nina has dreams about her father and her own Asian culture. She is a half Londoner and a half Eastern. That is why she wants to give herself a chance to the Eastern part of her and that part is her father. She needs her father to live the illusion of Elsewhere, to feel completed and accepted as a real daughter.

Third part of the story starts at Heathrow, Nadia and Nina go to Pakistan, together. When they go there, Nina utters:

I stand outside your room, Dad, where the men always meet in the early evenings. I look through the wire mesh of the screen door and there you are, my father for all these years. And this is what you were doing while I sat in the back of the class at my school in Shepherd's Bush, pregnant, wondering why you didn't love me. (Kureishi 1987, p.85)

She watches her father, finally, when he does his daily work with the other 'important' men. Nina thinks that this is his life, these are the things he does when Nina wonders about him or misses him or wants him to be near Nina. When she is at school, when she is pregnant, when she is in a good or a bad mode, she wonders why the father does not love her. She is torn apart about the father issue as she states. If I speak, you don't hear. You're one of those old-fashioned romantic men for whom women aren't really there unless you decide we are. (p.85) The father ignores Nina. That is why Nina cannot say yearning words. She thinks that the father cannot hear her even if she speaks. His decision determines the visibility time of Nina. The father is an old-fashioned man and he decides whether to see and talk to Nina or ignore her.

After this Nina continues: "You look up and see me. The sight of me angers you. You wave furiously for me to come in. No. Not yet. I walk on." (p.86). It is difficult for Nina to be ready to talk to her father. She longs for a father figure, that is obvious, however the word 'furiously' gives her the meaning that they need still some time before encountering, talking. Her dad is not warm towards Nina. After Nadia tells the thoughts of the father about Nina, she beware of the father also. In Pakistan, the father's family and friends do not know how to call Nina although all of them know that she is the illegitimate daughter of the father. Nina explains:

'This is our distant cousin from England.' It amuses me to see my father deal with this. He can't bring himself to say either 'cousin' or 'daughter' so he just says Nina and leaves it. But of course everyone knows I am his illegitimate daughter. But Nadia is the real 'daughter' here. 'Nadia is an impressive person, 'my father says, on my first day here, making it clear that I am diminished, the sort with dirt under her nails. (pp.87-88)

Although Nina is the father's real daughter, he does not call Nina by using this word. The original daughter is Nadia and she is the clever, the most precious one for him as he states before to Nina. It is a pity for Nina to know and feel that she does not get the same love from her father. She does not do anything wrong, she is the daughter of the same man, but she is not wanted. She is like a distant cousin living somewhere in England. The father not only does not show any love to Nina but also gives extra love and interest to Nadia and displays this deliberately. This probably makes Nina more humiliated. Thus, she uses "diminished" (p.88) to define herself according to her father. Nina can only be the dirt under the nails of Nadia. They are that much opposite according to the father. (p.88) When Nina and her father have a chat, at last, he asks some questions:

'What do you do in England for God's sake?'

'Nadia has already given you a full report, hasn't she?'

'Yes, but I want the full confession from your mouth.'

He loves to tease. But he is a dangerous person. Tell him something and soon everyone knows about it.

‘Confess to what?’

‘That you just roam around here and there. You do fuck all full time, in other words.’ (p.89)

This is the first proper talk between Nina and the father. However, it is not an optimistic one for their relationship. Nadia gives a full report probably about all the bad habits that Nina has. The father does not want to know how Nina is or how her life is going. He is just curious about the prostitution of Nina. Besides, he wants her to “confess” (p.89) the sexual intercourses she has with men, boys. Nina is once more disappointed because of the father’s speech. She is jealous of Nadia since Nadia gives the full report to dad as “nose to nose, whispering and giggling, eyebrows shooting up, jaws dropping like guillotines, hands rubbing. (p.89). In this part, Nina feels humiliated twice. Once is because of Nadia and to be compared with her and the second one is because of having a loveless father. Her case is hopeless. She cannot change the ideas of his father towards her. Later, Nina and the father continue chatting: He says to his servant and indicates me: ‘An Englisher born and bred, eh? ‘But you belong with us,’ Dad says. ‘Don’t worry, I’ll put you on the right track. But first there must be a strict course of discipline.’ (p.90). The father utters that Nina belongs to them. The reader can clearly see a conception of us and them here. Nina is thought as an Englisher, ‘them’. The father makes her someone from ‘us’. He puts her in the right track as he knows which path is the right or the wrong one. It is seen that the father’s love to Nina depends on some things which is not free. Nina needs to deserve it by following the rules of the father. In contrast, Nina’s love for her father requires nothing. He behaves improperly to Nina in all her life but still she loves him since she needs to have this family sense she needs what she is insufficient in. Nina needs the concept of father for herself to feel as a ‘whole’ person. However, the father does not need Nina’s existence to compensate for anything in his life. He corroborates his ideas by continuing: “Give everyone a drink except Nina. She has to get used to the pure way of life!” he says, and everyone laughs at me. (p.90). He degrades Nina in front of all the other guests on purpose. His so-called aim is to teach Nina how to live a pure life as if he knows how to do it actually.

When Nina and Billy meet and spend a night outside the house of the father, it is estimated that the tension between Nina and the father tightens. When Nina turns back to the house, it is crowded because of an event, again. Her father calls her and wants her to prepare a plate for both of them. Nina states: “And here we sit, father and daughter, all friendly and everything.” (p.97). That is the long-awaited image in Nina’s mind. Unfortunately, the reality is different. She tries to have a talk with the father:

‘How are you today?’

‘You fucking bitch,’ you say. You push away you food and light a cigarette.

‘Goody,’ I say, going a little cold. ‘Now we know where we are with each other.’

‘Where the fuck were you last night? You enquire of me. You go on: ‘You just fucked off and told no one. I was demented with worry. My blood pressure was through the roof. Anything could have happened to you.’

‘It did.’

‘That bloody boy’s insane.’

‘But Billy’s pretty.’

‘No, he’s ugly like you. And a big pain in the arse.’

‘Dad.’

‘No, don’t interrupt! A half-caste wastrel, a belong-nowhere, a problem to everyone, wandering around the face of the earth with no home like a stupid-mistake-mongrel dog that no one wants and everyone kicks in the backside.’

For those of you curious about the menu, I am drinking tear soup.

'You left us,' I say. I am shaking. You are shaking. 'Years ago, just look at it, you fucked us and left us and fucked off and never came back and never sent us money and instead made us sit through fucking Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita.'(p.97)

The conversation above is the peak point of the father and Nina's relationship. The father is worried about Nina because she is not at the house and states this worry by swearing to Nina. This anxiety of the father has some social connotations behind, namely for him a girl cannot be outside at midnight showing that he is under the control of his Western rules. He clearly states that she belongs to nowhere, and it is very clear from her quest of the family or family members.

Later, his comments about Billy and Nina are very rude. This time Nina does not stay silent. She answers to the father by saying everything she thinks. When the ideas of the father read, it is seen that he apparently degrades Nina. For him, Nina is a problematic person, she belongs nowhere and she has no home. (p. 97) He sees that Nina's existence in the world is even non sense. He does not have any idea about how Nina feels when she hears these words from her own father. The father is not a kind, gentle man and he has no love for Nina. When the answer of Nina is examined, the things she says are all correct. If there should be a person to blame, it is the father and Deborah. Having been born by these two, Nina is not the guilty one. Her lines designate that throughout her life, she suffers from the lack of her father. The father image is destroyed for Nina as she knows the truth about her own father. This event is the last one related to Nina and the father. Later, it is time for Nina to go back to the real 'home' of her, London.

The last part of the story starts with a confession from Howard, the author. He starts explaining the reason of replacing with Nina: "The days Deborah and I have spent beating on her head, trying to twist her the right way round, read this, study dancing, here's a book about Balanchine and the rest of it." (p.99). From Howard's explanation, it is seen that he is like a parent figure to Nina as he is the boyfriend of Deborah. When Howard and Nina talk in Howard's home, he states: "she has no illusions about her father now." (p.101). Nina's sadness about the behaviours of her father stops her illusions and dreams to see the father and have a good relationship with him. She does not have any hope about him anymore. Nina comes to Howard's place to have some money and to tell him that she leaves her mother's home. Thus Ma is alone from now on. Nina utters: "You've ripped Ma off before. She'll get over it." (p.102). After Nina and Deborah learn that Howard write the story by degrading the mother and the daughter and promoting himself, Deborah and Howard breaks up. Thus, at the end of the story, Nina gives advice to Howard to protect her mum in a way.

To conclude, Nina and Nadia's relationships with their parents are totally different which is greatly affected by the social background they live in. In Nina's condition, she is not loved or cared by her own father through her life. She does not have the sense of belonging that a family has; so she belongs to nowhere. Her mother is with her, but they cannot get on very well in general, this may be a protest of Nina to the situation that she is in. When it comes to Nadia, she is the precious daughter for the father. Her mother does not have any part in the story, there is not even a word told about Nadia's mother, the same case exists in Kureishi's 'My Son the Fanatic'. The mother is the silenced one even if she does not utter even a word. (Kureishi 1998, p.120). However; it is felt that Nadia's 'proper' family and school life make her the loveable one according to the father's point of view. In contrast, Nina is the daughter that her parents are not pleased and satisfied with. Their differences arising from their background and how they are brought up is not welcomed unlike what Chinua Achebe thinks, who is in favour of having a lot of different colours. (Achebe, 1973, p.61).

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