

Motivation-based Human Needs and their Disclosure Prompts in Chris Cleave's *Little Bee*

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ABSTRACT

The present work folds two qualitative objectives; the first focuses on investigating the multiplicity of motivation-based human needs in *Little Bee*. The second objective involves examining the linguistic forms adopted to disclose such needs. Consequently, the researchers are to adapt eclectically Alderfer's Existence, Relatedness, and Growth Theory (1969) and Langacker's theory of Domains (1987) together with his Active Zone Operation (1991). Such a study helps to embody the connectivity between the social and psychological aspects, and the way these two aspects are disclosed using particular linguistic. The study has concluded that Bee needed Alderfer's basic human needs: existence, relatedness, and growth. Besides, satisfying part of the existence sub-needs does not guarantee maintaining one's existence. Moreover, Bee has used various linguistic styles to meet the existence sub-needs, such as: simple past tense, wish expressions, or a metaphorical language. Finally, cognitive linguistics has proven its effectiveness in addressing literary texts; any psychological changes will definitely be activated in the mind and ultimately in language.

Keywords: ERG human needs, Cleave's *Little Bee*, cognitive linguistics, disclosure prompts, domains, motivations.

Introduction

The British male writer and journalist, Chris Cleave, claimed that *Little Bee* is not based on a factual tale; however, the novel reflects an aspiration from Manuel Bravo's situation, an Angolan immigrant (2006), who hang himself before it was scheduled to be deported together with his 13-year-old son. His suicide was to secure his unaccompanied son's minor status in the U.K. (Cleave 2008a). Cleave, in this novel, presented the misery of living as a refugee in Britain, whether this suffering was mental or physical.

"*Little Bee*" is also named "*The Other Hand*," in (2008a) in the U.S. and Canada. In this novel, Cleave presented a girl who renamed herself *Little Bee* as a refugee from Nigeria to Britain. Bee saw her village burnt during the Oil Wars 2 in Nigeria. She was also shoved by the hunters, who sexually assaulted her sister, Nkiruka, and released her once everything was finished. Bee could not save her sister and even the tourists there kept looking; she managed to take Andrew's wallet, a tourist who kept looking without helping her, and flee illegally on a cargo ship to Britain where the couple Sarah and Andrew were. There, she changed her name to Little Bee and lived with the desire to establish her new life and forget all about her past horrors (Jain, 2020). In this vein, Hussein (2020) highlighted that refugees usually travel to a new country in search of safety and redemption. They accept the dangers and acclimate themselves with the different culture, but in vain, as the challenges are great.

Accordingly, Bee as a character depicts the way human needs are activated based on the encountered environments. She metonymically represents the way laymen or refugees collide with the harsh laws of the new country, leaving psychological scars on them. From the researchers' perspectives, human needs are layered and not confined to a specific domain; meaning that some human needs are essential and recurrent, whereas others are situation-proper. Moreover, the essentiality aspect varies based on the encountered situation.

In Alderfer's revised theory of Maslow's needs, it was stated that the jump from one need into another is smooth and not pre-conditioned as was the case with Maslow's. Consequently, the present work is to first investigate descriptively Bee's multiple activation of needs based on the type of challenge being encountered, and second to examine the various disclosure prompts Bee used when highlighting a given need. Thus, the research questions to be answered are: what are the multiple needs Little Bee experienced based on her different encountered challenges? And second, "What are the various disclosure prompts used by Bee when highlighting a given need?. To meet these two objectives, the researchers are to adopt in a amalgamative way Alderfer's Existence, Relatedness, and Growth (hence ERG) Theory (1969) together with Langacker's theory of Domains (1987) and his Active Zone Operation (1991).

Such a topic is important, as it shows the connectivity of the social and psychological aspects with their linguistic one. It further displays the way human beings' social nature is based on a bundle of psychological needs. These needs, nowadays, as stated by Mitchel and Avruch (2013), come in tandem with human rights. Accordingly, it is important to shed light to the types of human needs in general through depicting the character's needs in particular. This is because through literature, as Amodu (2016) stated, the sicknesses and

shortcomings of reality are mirrored to be either commended or condemned; or as Shalini and Samundeswari (2017) maintained, the societal harsh aspects together with human sufferings will be highlighted to be publically recognized.

Literature Review

Human Needs as a Concept

McLeod's (2007) concept of human needs is connected to Sigmund Freud's hierarchy of human needs, a theory in psychology that was subsequently extended to include observations on men's innate curiosity. He stated, Freud (1943) was the first to illustrate this concept, proposing accordingly five basic needs. Maslow later ensured that people seek to satisfy their five-level hierarchy needs. The first four levels were often referred to as "deficiency needs", and the top level was known as the "growth or being" needs. However, these needs underwent over years, some elaborations and/or reduction in their number by several psychologists.

For instance, in (1979), Steers and Porter emphasized the motivational aspect. For them, the term need refers to "an internal state of disequilibrium, which causes individuals to pursue certain courses of action in an effort to regain internal equilibrium" (p. 22). In (1985), Gibson, Ivancevich, and Donnelly elaborately and complementarily added:

"Needs refer to deficiencies that an individual experiences at a particular point in time. The deficiencies may be physiological (e.g., a need for food), psychological (e.g., a need for self-esteem), or sociological (e.g., a need for social interaction). Needs are viewed as energizers or triggers of behavioral responses. (100-101)"

In (1988), Zimbardo referred to scholars' dispute regarding this term. For instance, "Some .. prefer to use the term need only in connection with biological demands (the body's need for water). Others think need is appropriate in discussing psychological requirements also (the need for achievement)" (p. 376). In (1990), John Burton highlighted a set of needs with no hierarchical significance. He focused on the needs of belongingness, justice, safety, identity, self-esteem, personal fulfillment, and freedom. In (2011), Danesh stated that the theorist Marshall Rosenberg presented a different set of needs, such as the needs for love, mourning, and spiritual communion. Moreover, Max-Neef and his colleagues (as cited in Danesh, 2011) depicted their own uniquely understood human needs, exemplified by the needs for "creation" and "leisure and idleness."

From this brief review, one can see that different theorists tackled the concept of human needs, and argued that people inevitably struggle to meet their non-negotiable fundamental needs.

Previously Conducted Studies

This section is set to shed light on some of the studies that were conducted on the novel in question, and as follows:

Memiş (2018) conducted a study to examine the issue of "Othering and the possibility of embracing the Other" in three of Cleave's novels: "*Incendiary*", "*Little Bee*", and

“*Everyone Brave Is Forgiven*”. He highlighted that the self was functionally identified from the social and artificial perspectives, shedding light on categories as race, class, and gender. The study concluded that the concept of otherness is born when the conditions that form one’s identity different from the rest are excluded. Besides, otherness was used to mean either the forces within and outside the subject that belonged to a group, or to the inevitable disconnection of the subject from the group.

Rani (2020) studied the concept of identity through examining the three stages in Little Bee’s identity formation using Thus, Tajfel and Turner’s Social Identity Formation Theory. The study concluded that being a refugee from Africa helped her recognize the British’s real treatment with the refugees. The stages Bee passed through were social categorization, social identification, and social comparison. The central stage of the character was when she started creating her identity while living in the United Kingdom. The second stage was when she was influenced by factors that agitated her sufferings during her lives in the detention center.

Jain (2020) analyzed the difficulties that faced the refugees in life, shedding light on Bee’s sense of alterity in the detention camp, and on the way the refugee were perceived (vulnerable, silent, or the other). The study further investigated the power of resistance and self-assertion through the language and ways of communication that were used in *Little Bee*. The study concluded that Little Bee was an individual voice in the detention camp, imposing limits on the human freedom. Besides, learning the language of the queen was “a double-edged sword”; it was a source of domination and alienation. In other words, she was “both liberated and limited by language”.

Ngore, Nasrullah, and Sartika (2022) depicted the concept of alienation by adopting a psychological approach. They qualitatively explored alienation in the main character, and explained in details the experiences Little Bee faced, such as: powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, social isolation, and self-estrangement, which led to her alienation. It focused on Little Bee’s different needs and also her struggles to gain her needs in the United Kingdom by depending on Maslow’s theory of human needs. Even though she ultimately decided not to stay in the U.K., she still viewed this trip as a turning point in her life. The study finally suggested to center on the rights of female refugees, particularly their freedom to exist and on their essential necessities.

As it is seen, the present work differs from the previously stated ones in the following perspectives: It is a joint work between literature and cognitive linguistics. It focuses on only one character, Bee, specifically on her multiple types of situation-based needs, and the linguistic structures and styles used to express these needs. As for the theory adopted in data analysis, it involves Alderfer’s Existence, Relatedness, and Growth (hence ERG) Theory (1969) together with Langacker’s theory of Domains (1987) and his Active Zone Operation (1991). Most of the studies used either a psychological theory other than the one adopted or a discursal theory to discuss the concepts of identity and othering. Besides, cognitive linguistics as an approach has not been adopted before in examining this literary work. It was applied instead to many fields and areas, such as visual language as in (Qasim & Al-Bahrani, 2024; Jaber & Al-Bahrani, 2021), on verbal language as in (Abdul Kareem, Ali & Al-Bahrani, 2022), in the area of grammar (Al-Bahrani & Al-Rubaye, 2017), on movies (Al-Bahrani, 2018), in applied linguistics (Al-Bahrani, Turki, & Sameer, 2024).

That is many other studies need to be conducted in the field of literature using cognitive linguistics as an approach.

Adopted Theories

Alderfer's ERG Theory as an Adopted Theory

Early in 1970s, Clayton Alderfer proposed an alternative theory to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. His theory is similar to Maslow's in that the needs are hierarchically ordered; however, it consists of three basic categories of needs:

- 1. Existence Needs:** These needs are considered essential to existence; they include: “food, water, air, shelter, and pay”, and subsume the first two types of Maslow's needs physiological and safety needs.
- 2. Relatedness Needs:** These needs are concerned with the way people deal with others; they include “social and interpersonal relationships with significant individuals or groups of others”.
- 3. Growth Needs:** Such a type is met through doing something “productive, creative efforts. People develop a complex awareness of who they are and integrate the many diverse aspects of their personality into a whole” (as cited in Alderfer & Guzzo, 1979). This category subsumes under which Maslow's self-esteem and self-actualization needs (Gibson et al., 1985; Steers & Porter, 1979); consider Figure 1:

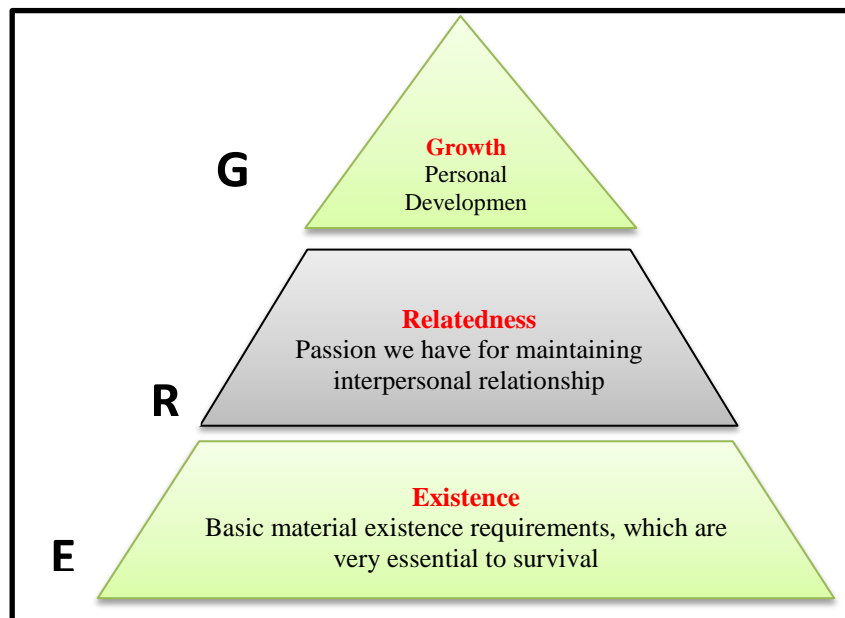


Figure 1. Alderfer's Existence, Relatedness, and Growth Theory of Needs
Source: (as cited in <https://namastesensei.in/alderfers-erg-theory-of-motivation-with-examples-free-pdf/>)

This theory is not Maslow's condensed version; it differs from Maslow's in the following points:

1. It is flexible in that one does not need to satisfy the existence category of needs to proceed to the second and third hierarchy, as is the case with Maslow's.
2. Moreover, more than one need from different levels can be motivated and activated at the same time.
3. The movement from one need to another within and across the levels is also permissible. That is, it is based on the 'Frustration-Regression Relationship' rather than on Maslow's "satisfaction-progression principle" (Alderfer, 1989). This entails, as put by The Mind Tools Content Team (2024), that "if a person's needs remain unsatisfied at one of the higher levels, he or she will become frustrated and go back to pursuing lower level needs".
4. Alderfer and Guzzo (1979) further maintained that individuals differ among themselves in terms of race and gender regarding these needs. For instance, women are said to need a lot the relatedness category, whereas men the existence category. Besides, the blacks require higher existence needs more than the whites because the economic aspect is unstable. That is, "the frustration of a need often leads to an increase in its relative importance".
5. The importance of needs differs from one to another and is based also on changes in circumstances and situations (The Mind Tools Content Team, 2024).

Langacker's Theory of Domain

Together with Alderfer's theory, the researchers are to adopt Langacker's theory of Domains (1987) within the field of cognitive linguistics. This is because first this field emphasizes, natural language is used in processing and conveying knowledge through language (Geeraerts & Cuyckens, 2007). Second and as Tommasello (1999, as cited in Kertesz, 2004) maintained, cognitive linguistics is connected to language psychology, meaning the way language is structured based on the experiences lived. In this regard, Gärdenfors (as cited in Allwood & Gärdenfors, 1999) elaborated that meaning in cognitive linguistics is experientially-based and is reflected via using metaphoric and metonymic operations.

Speaking of the term domain, it was defined by Langacker (1987) as "necessarily cognitive entities: mental experiences, representational spaces, or conceptual complexes" (147). It provides "background information against which lexical concepts can be understood and used in language" (as cited in Evans & Green, 2006, p. 230). For instance, the expressions hot, cold, and lukewarm are lexical concepts lie within the Matrix domain of TEMPERATURE. That is, the relation between these domains reflects the part-whole relations. Besides, the theory deals with "the structure and organization of knowledge, and the way in which concepts are related and understood in terms of others" (as cited in Evans & Green, 2006, p. 231). In (1994), Langacker (as cited in Park, 2019) added an operation called "Active Zone", which is "a part of an entity, which is cognitively activated by virtue of linguistic context". (p. 42) Consequently, and based on these two adopted theories, the conceptual framework of the Adopted theories will be as indicated in Figure 2.

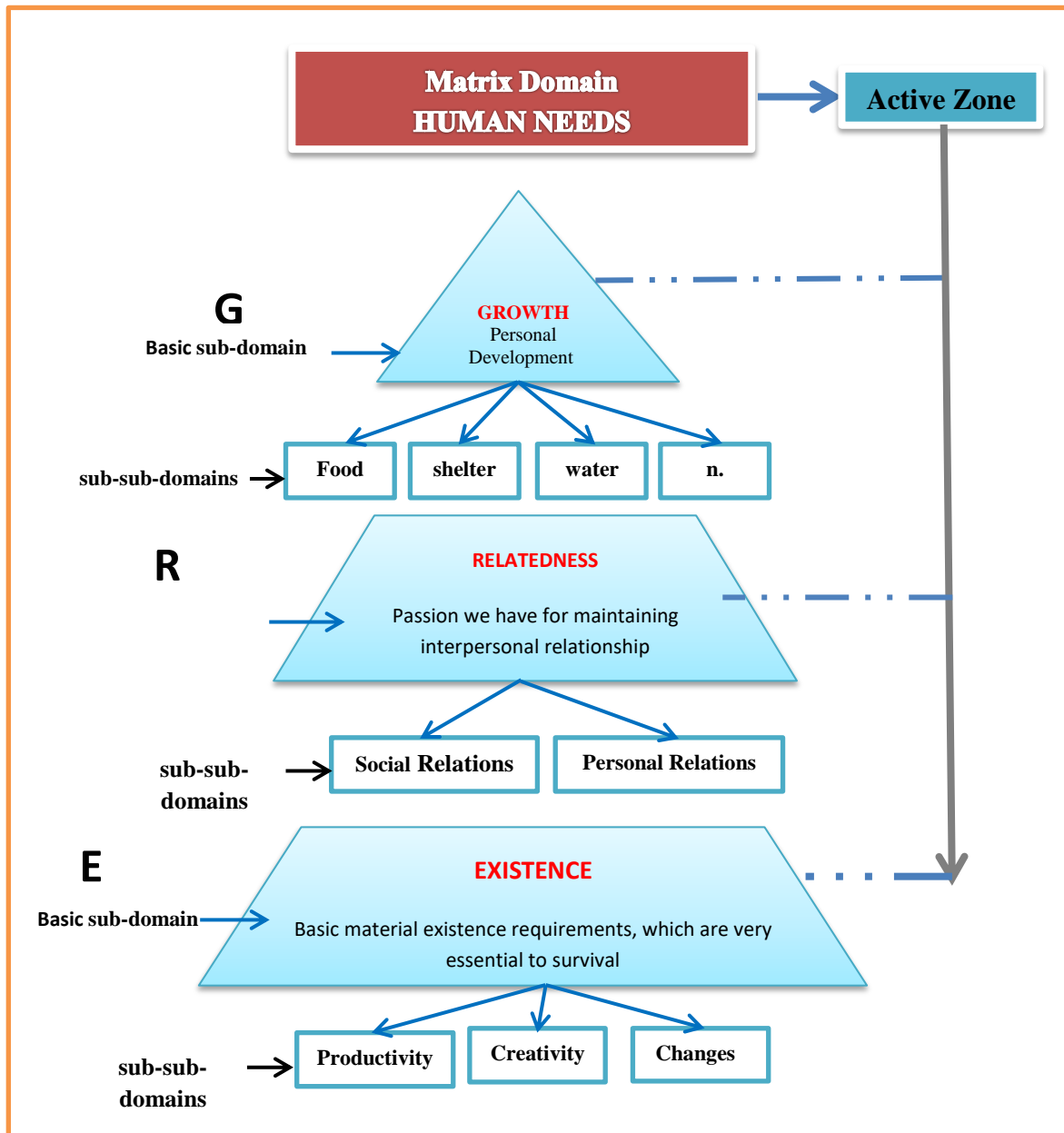


Figure 2. The Adopted Eclectic Theory
 Source: Authors' own work

Methodology

The current work is qualitative; it entails, as Sirisilla (2023) noted, giving a precise and comprehensive picture of the traits and behaviors of a specific population or subject. Such a type of studies further helps to gain a greater comprehension of a particular problem and to offer insightful information that can guide further research. In this vein, Ayton (2023) maintained, the goal of qualitative descriptive research is to give a thorough account of what will happen. Since the present work is qualitative in nature, the data of the study will be limited to (12) extracts randomly selected to show the various needs, the contexts and the forms used to disclosing them. As for the research approach, it amalgamates two different fields, literature and cognitive linguistics.

As stated earlier, the present work is of two objectives. The first one, which reads, **“investigating descriptively the multiplicity of the needs Little Bee experienced in her life based on the type of challenge being encountered**, will be done by doing the following steps:

1. Identifying and grouping the extracts that most closely depict Bee’s multiple needs,
2. Pinpointing the type of need(s) being motivated based on Alderfer and Langacker’s theories.
3. Specifying the social circumstance or situation that helped in highlighting and motivating the need in question.

As for the second objective, which states, **“examining the various disclosure prompts used by Bee when highlighting a given need”**, the researchers are to do the following steps:

1. Tabulating the selected extracts as per the needs highlighted, and
2. Pinpointing the various structures adopted by Bee with the needs highlighted.

Results and Discussion

To meet the first objective, the researchers will adopt the procedural points stated in the previous section, as shown below:

Extract (1) “MOST DAYS I WISH I was a British pound coin instead of an African girl. Everyone would be pleased to see the coin coming”(Cleave, 2008b, p.9).
“A pound coin can go wherever it thinks it will be safest. It can cross deserts and oceans and leave the sound of gunfire and the bitter smell of burning thatch behind. (Cleave, 2008b, p. 9).

In extract 1, Bee’s Existence Need Domain was first motivated when she lost the senses of safety, warmth, and tranquility due to the macabre things she witnessed during the war and to the life hardships. She thus compared herself to the coin, which goes everywhere with its owner; she did not want to be treated like Africans, but as a British pound coin, where she can live peacefully and feel valued. In other words, the loss of the sub-domains of the Existence Domain activated the sense of being unrelated to the place where she lived in, and to the nationality she belonged to.

Extract (2) "When I left my homeland, I thought I had escaped—but out on the open sea, I started to have nightmares. I was naive to suppose I had left my country with nothing. It was a heavy cargo that I carried." (Cleave, 2008b, p.46)

Extract (3) "A girl like me gets stopped at immigration, but a pound can leap the turnstiles" (Cleave, 2008b, p.9)... "It was no joke inside the detention center. What will I say about this? Your system is cruel" (Cleave, 2008b, p.46).

Extracts 2 and 3 emphasize the theme of cross mappings and multiplicity of the needs. Travelling to satisfy part of the Existence sub-needs did not help Bee to get these sub-needs, meaning to feel secured and good. This is because even when she went away from the physical harms, the bad experiences started chasing her mentally, leading to continuously unrecognizing the sub-domains of the Existence needs. A matter which was later lived when the immigration stopped her and took her to the detention. She refused to be put again in the detention and live the past experiences, that was why she was speechless. Once again, attempting to satisfy some of the Existence sub-needs activated within her the need to feel Related.

Extract (4) "We refugees are very efficient. We do not have the things we need" (Cleave, 2008b, p.69).

In extract 4, there is a general and direct reference to the absence of the basic human needs; that is, the existence, relatedness, and growth needs in terms of Alderfer's. Here, the matrix domain of NEED is activated, including its sub-domains.

Extract (5) "I began to eat the meals they brought me. I thought to myself, you must keep up your strength, Little Bee, or you will be too weak to kill your foolish self when the time arrives, and then you will be sorry. I started to walk from the medical wing to the canteen at mealtimes, so that I could choose my food instead of having it brought to me. I started asking myself questions like: Which will make me stronger for the act of suicide? The carrots or the peas?" (Cleave, 2008b, p.47)

Extract 5 illustrates that being in the detention, Bee thought of committing a suicide by preventing herself from eating and drinking anything. Then, realized the importance of being strong to proceed with this idea through consuming what they brought to her, and wandering from the wig to the canteen. For her, there was no use of living, as there was no safety, and no promises in life! That is, the absence of many of the sub-sub-domains of the HUMAN NEEDS Matrix domain has activated the sub-domain of Existence, and Relatedness, but in a negative way, not having the desire to live anymore and be related to that world.

Extract (6) They put me in the same detention center as the adults. The trouble was there were men and women locked up together in that place. At night, they kept the men in a different wing of the detention center. They caged them like wolves when the sun went down, but in the daytime, the men walked among us and ate the same food we did. I thought they still looked hungry... To survive you must look good or talk good, I decided that talking would be safer for me. (Cleave, 2008b, p. 13)

Extract 6 showcases that one of the life hardships she experienced was being deprived of her rights as a child. She was put in the same jail with adults regardless their ages and genders, and was treated like them. The men were separated from the women at night, but

during the day, they could be grouped and eat together. The men were depicted as wolves in their behavior, and way of eating. There was food, but it was served in tiny samples that did not meet their needs. Their motivations/needs led them behave in that way. Here, losing the Existence needs activated within some refugees the sense of relatedness to one of the detention officers to gain his satisfaction and be given more food accordingly. That is, to meet the Existence need, they were required to meet first the Relatedness need, but in a humiliated way. However, with Bee the case was different, having the Existence needs unmet, led be to develop the sense of unrelatedness.

Extract (7) "When the charity boxes arrived, full of secondhand clothes and shoes, some of the other girls tried to make themselves pretty, but I rummaged through the cartons to find clothes that hid my shape" (Cleave, 2008b, p. 13).
 "All that time in the detention center, I was trapped by walls" (Cleave, 2008b, p. 182).

Extract 7 states that being in the same detention with men and women made her highlight the need of being unrelated to that place and people, and to deprive herself from the basic needs of being loved, clean, etc. Thus, to keep men at a distance from her, she deliberately did not wash, made her skin greasy, had her hair cut by one of the jail officers, and covered her chest beneath her garments with a wide strip of fabric to give the impression of having small and flat breast. In other words, being deprived of some of the Existence needs made her loose the other Existence needs and feel unrelated to the place.

Extract (8) "This creature that I am, she is a new breed of human." (p.14).
 "What if we all run away? But then I remembered, they were letting us out. This was hard to understand after so much time. Two years, I lived in that detention center" (Cleave, 2008b, p.13)

Extract 8 reveals that being in the immigration center made her feel non-human; however, picking up the English language made her feel a different woman, particularly when she was released. The right to learn (an Existence sub-domain) linearly activated the sense of Growth, which advised her to run away from that miserable place, forgetting the fact that she was free. This means that the sense of Growth was later chased by her mental bad schema regarding the loss of security and the feeling of being unrelated.

Extract (9) "Yes, yes, everything will be beautiful like this now. I will never be afraid again. I will never spend another day trapped in the color gray" (Cleave, 2008b, p. 73)

Extract 9 pinpoints that things were not the same for Little Bee; everything was gray at first, but later on, colors started to appear in the landscape. Although Little Bee was eager to explore her surroundings, her ankles and legs ached. Despite her weakness, she was exhilarated to move around and experience freedom, as well as to feel the damp grass and night air caressing her face and legs. In this extract, one can sense that the sub-domain of RELATEDNESS has activated the sub-domain of GROWTH. Feeling related to the new surroundings made her able to feel a little bit differently.

Extract (10) I wanted to show that we were British and we spoke your language and understood all the subtle things about your culture. (Cleave, 2008, p. 54)...
 "This government doesn't care about anyone. You're not the first people we've seen, wandering through these fields like Martians. You don't even know what planet you're on, do you? Bloody government. Doesn't care about you refugees, doesn't care about the countryside, doesn't care about farmers. All this bloody government cares about is foxes and townspeople. (Cleave, 2008, p. 58)

In extract 10, the sense of belongingness that was activated through speaking and comprehending English, behaving like the British people, and through knowing about nuances of the society was not enough for Bee, as she did not feel like an English citizen. This is because the government of England was indifferent about the refugees and the simple people; it was only considerate to foxes and the local residence. That is, the sense of Relatedness was collapsed by what she saw in reality.

Extract (11) "They are not my rules, sir." (Chris, 2008, p.203). "I thought if I learned to speak like you people do, I would be able to stay " (p.203).
 "It does not matter how you talk, does it?"... The point is you do not *belong* here". (P.203).
 "I am a refugee, and I get very lonely"(Chris, 2008, p.14).

Extract (12) "I want to be part of my country's story." I pointed out into the heat. "See? They have left space for me"(Chris, 2008, p.210).
 "Thank you for saving me, Sarah"(Chris, 2008, p.212)

Extracts 11 and 12 clarify that in spite of living in England for a considerable amount of time, her best efforts to speak the language effectively was in vain; she never felt like she belonged to them. Inside her heart, she insisted on learning the English language to share her experience and true story in England. Born as a citizen of the developing world was not enough to help her keep away the gray life in her heart. Here, it seems that the activated sub-domain of GROWTH has activated the sub-domain of RELATEDNESS in a negative way, i.e., feeling unrelated to the new surroundings.

Sarah stayed next to her on the plane holding Little Bee's hand rather than leaving her alone. She further decided to collect stories like Little Bee's story. Lastly, Little Bee decided to say goodbye for everything upon being back home. She stated that she had no desire to share this tale with anyone else and thanked Sarah for supporting her. That is, the sense represented by the activated sub-domain of GROWTH has activated the sub-domain of RELATEDNESS in a negative way (i.e., feeling unrelated).

To recap, to satisfy part of Alderfer's existence needs is not enough for a person to live a normal life. To have food and lose security is assimilated to the life of animals. Vice versa, to be secured, yet the other essentials of life are missing makes a man loses his dignity. That was why, Bee thought of committing a suicide. What was the use of eating and drinking where she could not live a normal life or be treated as a human being. The accumulation in the missing of these needs made her speechless, as she did not know what to ask about and what to do. She was further weak physically and spiritually. The range of Existence needs is not confined to eating, drinking, and maintaining security. It entails living a decent life where food of different varieties are available, security is sensed, freedom is experienced, privacy is maintained, human rights are met, etc. Once the basic

needs are met, the person starts thinking of more elevated rights and needs until he gets developed and be much more refined. Bee as a character experienced a sort of conflict with regard to the simultaneous satisfaction of the various Existence needs. She and many others like her had even to show Relatedness and interest to others and gain their satisfaction in order to be treated differently. This is in line with what Alderfer maintained in that the passing or moving from one layer of the pyramid needs is flexible and is not pre-conditioned by meeting the preceding layer.

The need of Relatedness was experienced as a means to protect herself and maintain part of the Existence needs. She further reflected the sense of unrelatedness towards the opposite gender by making herself look ugly, dirty and unattractive, so that no one will rape her or abuse her.

Speaking of the second objective, which entails, **“examining the various disclosure prompts used by Bee when highlighting a given need”**, it has been noticed the following:-

To express the sense or the need for Existence represented by sub-domains: shelter or a place to live or the abstract sub-domain home, a place where she can sense the warmth and safety, Bee in extract (1) metaphorically compared herself to a “pound coin” She further used the structure “I wish I was”, which is a conditional situation that is hypothetical and not real. This usage metonymically reflects the imaginary state that cannot be achieved in reality.

The partial satisfaction of the needs of the sub-domain of Existence does not guarantee experiencing the pleasure of Existence need satisfaction, as is the case with extract (2). This is because the Existence as a sub-domain cannot be sensed unless its sub-sub-domains are met, which are that of safety, warmth, food, money, etc. This dissatisfaction is represented linguistically via the past tense “I thought I had escaped” and “I was naive to suppose I had left my country with nothing”. Accordingly, Bee could move up to satisfy the upper basic sub-domain, Relatedness. On the contrary, meeting part of the sub-domain of Existence has activated the sense of Unrelatedness. A similar case is sensed in extract (6). Though she had a place; however, that place did not suit her because it belonged to adults, and she was a child, “They put me in the same detention center as the adults”. In the same vein, the use of a contrastive sentence, as in extract (7), “but I rummaged through the cartons to find clothes that hid my shape” indicates that she is different from them and so feels unrelated to them. In addition, the use of the past tense in “I wanted to show we were British” in extract (10) clearly reflects the unmet condition and her failure to do so. Beside that the tractor’s operator words which frankly express the indifference of the government to the rural people and refugees, as in “This government doesn’t care about anyone.... All this bloody government cares about is foxes and townspeople”. In extract (11), the utterance “you do not belong here” and “I get very lonely” are a direct reference that has activated once again the sub-domain of unrelatedness within Bee. Finally, in extract (12) the reported speech “I want to be part of my country’s story” and “They have left space for me” are a direct reference that she does not belong to the new place and has to move back to her country. In other words, the domain of unrelatedness has activated within herself the domain of Existence, but in a negative way.

In extract (3), Bee expressed the sense of unrelatedness by using the simple present tense “gets stopped”, which is a social fact; she is African and so should be stopped. Feeling unrelated to the new world activated the MATRIX DOMAIN of NEEDS in a negative way. The adjective “cruel” describes the system and this word metonymically activates all the missing and bad things. Accordingly, the phrase “your system is cruel” metonymically activates that sense that it misses all human basic needs.

In extract no. (4), there is a direct reference to the absence of all basic human needs via the use of the expression “you do not have the things we need. The same thing happens in extract (5) there is also a direct reference to Bee’s desire to commit a suicide. Lacking the human basic needs is an essential factor that pushes her to die.

In extract (8), one can clearly notice Bee’s development in the new place. Despite being there, she decided to pick up the English language to start sharing her stories and sufferings to others. This is clearly indicated in the phrases: “This creature” and “a new breed of human.” That is, satisfying part of the needs of the sub-domain of Existence has helped her activate the domain of Growth. Similarly, in extract (9), she used future time expression to indicate that things will be different and positive. Beside the utterances “everything will be beautiful”, “I will never be afraid again”, and “I will never spend another day trapped in the color gray”. The use of the adverb “never” gives the indication that she was positive and sure that would happen.

Back to extract (8), being in a new place could not help make her forget about her miseries before. She was still thinking as if she was there in the detention, as clearly implied in her utterance “then, I remembered... this was hard to understand”. In other words, meeting part of the Existence needs did not help making her feel that she was related to the new people and the new place.

Conclusions

As far as the first research question is concerned, **what are the multiple needs Little Bee experienced based on her different encountered challenges?**, it is to be noticed the following:

Generally speaking, and in terms of Alderfer’s three pyramid needs combined with Langacker’s Theory of Domains, Bee needed these three basic needs: the Existence, Relatedness, and Growth. Moreover, Alderfer combined Maslow’s first two needs into one; for him, the Existence needs include not only the physiological needs which Maslow highlighted before, including: water, air, food, clothes, shelter, sleep, clothes, and reproduction. Instead, they include both physiological and safety needs altogether. The safety needs, which involve: personal security, resources, health, property, and employment, have been combined with the physiological ones to meet Alderfer’s existence needs. Alderfer was right in this combination, as Bee thought of committing a suicide even though she had food, air, a place to live, and regardless of the type of shelter that was provided for her. Besides, after being released and gaining her freedom, the idea of committing a suicide was looming again in the horizon. This implies that satisfying only part of the Existence needs does not guarantee meeting or maintaining one’s existence. If

Existence was partially maintained by meeting its sub-needs, this may lead the person to lose part of his human feature and be assimilated to animals in one way or another.

Losing the Existence sub-needs activated the sub-domain of Relatedness needs, particularly the need to feel safe and related. This means there is a linear correlation between these sub-domains, Growth, Relatedness, and Existence. Losing one of the Existence needs activates the feeling of unlearnedness to that place, nationality, age, people, etc.

In addition, more than one need was highlighted in Bee's case, and that again goes in line with what Alderfer referred to in his theory, which entails moving smoothly from one need to another across the layers.

Little Bee did not even live up to her basic needs as a human being, which included meeting her bodily, emotional, and psychological needs. Her two years of detention in the immigration center imposed on her living in a challenging environment.

As for the need for security, she did not feel it before and after the detention. To stay in her home country or fleeing Nigeria was the same for her. In both cases, there were no protection, no support, and no security. Deaths, fighting, and gunshots were everywhere to the extent she thought to be in the miserable detention is better for her than straying in the streets, and feeling lost and unsafe.

Speaking of the scope of the existence needs, one can notice that people need all types of the existence sub-needs, but in different proportions that are person-based. Besides, meeting one of these sub-needs may help to motivate the full sub-needs of the Existence Domain.

The need for Relatedness and belongingness is also significant, as human beings were born social by nature. Little Bee's demand for belongingness was unmet even after learning how to speak fluently and spending a significant amount of time in England. She always felt, deep down, that she was a refugee, and that she was lonely. In addition, the sense of Relatedness worked with Bee in two opposite directions. In some circumstances, she felt that she needs to be supported and protected by others. In others, she tried to reflect the sense that she does not belong to the female gender, or even to her age to protect herself from being raped and abused by others. Before and after the incarceration, Little Bee faced several challenges. The latter helped her accept and be satisfied with the least amount of the Existence sub-needs just to survive, but that was not enough for her as a human being. Her needs because of the difficult circumstances did not majorly exceed Alderfer's first two layers.

As for the growth needs, it was clearly noticed in her imaginary conversation with her friends for the purpose of sharing her stories and experiences. Such a talk was an outlet for her to express all her bad and macabre experiences as a black female child refugee.

As for the second research question, represented by **“What are the various disclosure prompts used by Bee when highlighting a given need”**, it has been noticed the following:

In expressing the Existence sub-needs, Bee used simple past tense or the expression I wish I could to refer to missing needs that do not exist in the real world. She further used metaphor “British coin” to reflect mentally and imaginatively her beautiful wishes.

In expressing the Relatedness sub-needs, she again used negative adjectives as, “naïve, and cruel”; a narrative style to express her feelings, as in: “They put me in the same detention

center” and “I wanted to run”; the use of simple present tense to reflect the sense of permanency, as in: “you do not belong here”, “I get very lonely”, and “gets stopped”; contrastive structure, as in: “but I rummaged through the cartons to find clothes”; and the use of a direct reference, such as: “you do not have the things we need”.

Speaking of the GROWTH sub-needs, one could notice that Bee adopted positive adjectives and optimistic utterances to connote the sense of change, as in: “This creature”, “a new breed of human”, “everything will be beautiful”, “I will never be afraid again”, and “I will never spend another day trapped in the color gray”. She further used the adverb “never” to highlight her positive and affirmative feelings about the coming days.

The use of different styles has been activated and highlighted based on the type of her activated need. Accordingly, the theory of domain Analysis by Langacker has proven once again its flexibility and importance to deal not only with conceptual meanings, but also with controlling reflecting the direct correlation between one’s mental state and its linguistic outcome.

Cognitive linguistics is an interdisciplinary discipline. It is partially concerned with the person’s psychology, and partially with culture and other disciplines as well. Accordingly, any change in one’s psychology and one’s own micro-culture will definitely be reflected in his mental language, and consequently be mirrored in one’s language and behavior.

Cognitive linguistics has proven its effectiveness in addressing literary texts, and characters’ language and behaviour. Finally, all the expressions regardless of their structure and form adopted are metonymically connected to their concepts and functions, an observation that was previously proven by Langacker (as cited in Evans and Green 2006).

Recommendations

The study recommends the following:

1. Applying cognitive linguistics as an approach in other literary works;
2. Conducting more studies to examine the way literature reflects the reality
3. Investigating the rallying point between literature and linguistics, shedding light on the way language is used to express literary themes.

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