

Liberal Journal of Language & Literature Review

Print ISSN: 3006-5887

Online ISSN: 3006-5895

<https://llrjournal.com/index.php/11>

**DEPENDENCY AMONG FOOD SCARCITY AND POWER
DYNAMICS IN RATHER'S *THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS***



**Shafqat Mahmood^{*1}, Sanniya Batool²,
Muhammad Abubakar Jamil³**

^{*1,3}*M.phil Scholar, Department of English Literature,
Riphah International University, Faisalabad*

²*Senior Lecturer, Department of English Literature,
Riphah International University, Faisalabad*

^{*1}shafqatmahmood117@gmail.com,

²sanniya.batool@riphahfsd.edu.pk,

³muhammadabubakr7866@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines the relationship between food scarcity and power dynamics in The Night of Broken Glass through the theoretical framework of Samir Amin's theory of unequal development and dependency. Through qualitative textual analysis, the article explores how food scarcity is not just a state of material deprivation but a means of social control, dependency and power in the novel. This analysis shows that food inequities support social inequalities, marginalize vulnerable groups, and allow dominant groups to be powerful by controlling resources. Based on Amin ideas of dependency, structural poverty and unequal development, the paper will hold the argument that scarcity is a product of socially uneven structures of distribution as opposed to natural scarcity. Moreover, the novel also shows that hunger breeds fear, vulnerability, and obedience and at the same time builds resilience and low-level resistance among marginalized groups. This study, by preempting the political and economic aspects of food insecurity, adds to both literary analysis and political economy by underscoring the complex relationships between the allocation of resources, social inequalities and power dynamics as explained in the story..

Keywords: food scarcity, power dynamics, dependency theory, unequal development, resource control, social hierarchy, structural inequality

Introduction

Literature has been used historically as a tool whereby authors question the material realities of human life especially in situations that are characterized by conflict, deprivation and social inequalities. One of the longest-lasting types of such inequality is food scarcity that does not solely refer to physical hunger but also involves issues of power, allocation of resources and social control. In the politically unstable and economically marginalized societies, food is often a battleground where power has been practiced and social orders are upheld. Literary accounts of scarcity thus provide useful information on the intricate connection between material resources and domination structures, whereby the everyday struggle of survival is incorporated into the larger structures of power.

These dynamics are explored in Rather The Night of Broken Glass by showing communities that face uncertain conditions, deprivation, and unequal access to vital resources. The novel introduces the social environment where food is not only the need to survive but a powerful tool with the help of which power can be negotiated, enforced, and resisted. The characters have to move in a world that is defined by lack, as access to food defines social status, affects how people interact with each other and perpetuates dependency cycles. By focusing on material conditions of hunger and deprivation, the story anticipates the political aspects of how food distribution works and reveals how scarcity gets implicated in authority structures.

The theme of food and power has drawn a lot of interest in a wide range of different fields, such as political economy, sociology, development studies, and literary criticism. The belief that food scarcity is simply caused by natural scarcity or due to population pressures has been contested by academics who instead believe that hunger is frequently created as a part of unequal social and economic relationships (Sen, 1981; Patel, 2007). Food systems of ownership, distribution, and governance have been shown to be systems that marginalize a group of people and favor others. As a result, food insecurity should not be considered as a mere economic problem but also a political phenomenon, which reflects the general relations of domination and exclusion. Literary texts that address the question of scarcity offer valuable points of departure to study the nature in which these dynamics are practiced, represented, and challenged at the everyday life level.

The current body of knowledge about The Night of Broken Glass has focused mostly on the 1930s general themes i.e. violence, trauma, displacement, identity formation and the social aftermath of the conflict. Critical analysis has emphasized how the novel addresses human suffering, the disintegration of the

community, and the psychological consequences of instability and placed the novel in greater context of conflict literature of the time. Although these methods have produced valuable information on the emotional and social aspects of the text, they have given relatively little focus on the material conditions that organize the experiences of the characters in the novel. Specifically, the aspect of food scarcity as a power and social control mechanism is under-researched. Consequently, the economic and political importance of resource allocation in the story has not been given a long-term critical analysis.

This neglect is especially important since the issue of food shortage plays a leading role in the social world of the novel. The access to food often defines the lines between security and vulnerability, privilege and marginalization, authority and dependence. Scarcity is not just a background condition but a structural condition that determines social relations and affects the exercise of power. Throughout the novel, the control of resources is shown to give some individuals and institutions the ability to control behavior, demand loyalty and maintain hierarchies that already exist. A critical paradigm that can consider such material dimensions is thus necessary in an understanding of the larger meaning of the text.

To fill this gap, the current paper reviews *The Night of Broken Glass* in the theoretical framework of political economy of unequal development and dependency by Samir Amin. The work by Amin offers a good model to understand how scarcity and deprivation are created by unequal systems of resource distribution instead of being created only by the natural lack (Amin, 1974; Amin, 1976). His perspective on structural dependency, marginalized periphery and economical domination provide significant understanding of the connection between the material resource and social power. The application of the theoretical point of view of Amin to the novel allows exploring the relation of food scarcity as the mechanism of the creation, preservation and reproduction of authority more thoroughly.

The main aim of the research is to explore how food scarcity and power relations in *The Night of Broken Glass* are related to each other. More precisely, the article aims at exploring the regulating food access in the narrative, the role of scarcity in the concentration of power, and the dependence of vulnerable groups on their ability to access the necessities. The research questions that lead the study are as follows: How does food scarcity serve as a power mechanism in the novel? How do hegemonic actors employ power over food resources to perpetuate power and dependency? What does the theory of unequal development and dependency by Samir Amin tell us about the connection between scarcity, inequality and domination as we see in the text?

In this article, the theory of Samir Amin is chosen as the main theoretical framework and the methodological approach is the analysis of the text through qualitative methods. The analysis of how hunger, deprivation, resource allocation and social hierarchy are represented in the key narrative episodes helps to determine the ways in which scarcity determines the power relations. The analysis is not limited to material conditions but rather on the ideological and social processes that naturalize unequal access to resources and strengthen structures of dependency.

This research work has value in that it contributes to literary and political-economic discourses of scarcity. By preempting food as a location of power as opposed to just a state of deprivation, the article broadens previous understandings of *The Night of Broken Glass* and proves the applicability of Amin theoretical contributions to modern literary research. In addition, the work adds to the larger debates about food insecurity, structural inequality, and resource politics by demonstrating how literature can show the human effects of unequal systems of distribution and control.

2. The Nexus of Scarcity, Power, and Social Inequality Literature

The nexus of scarcity, power, and social inequality has been the subject of growing academic interest in the literary studies, political economy, development theory, and cultural criticism. The modern discourse of hunger and deprivation has shifted away from explanations based on environmental constraints or demographic pressures, and has focused on the structural conditions under which scarcity is produced, allocated and reproduced. Researchers have begun to suggest that the systems of economic domination, political power, and inequitable distribution of resources contribute to access to food and reinforce existing hierarchies of power (Sen, 1981; Patel, 2007; Clapp, 2020). In the context of literary studies, these issues have become a major focus in questioning how hunger, deprivation and material vulnerability are represented as a means of expressing more general modes of domination. Nevertheless, even though research on food politics and dependency theory is on the increase, little has been given to the theoretical framework of Samir Amin of

food scarcity in literary works. This gap is aimed to be filled in the current study with reference to the analysis of *The Night of Broken Glass* by Ratzke.

2.1 Critical Scholarship on *The Night of Broken Glass*

The literature on *The Night of Broken Glass* has largely revolved around the themes of violence, displacement, conflict, identity formation, and psychological trauma. Research on the modern discourse of conflicts often highlights the manner in which literary works capture the experience of communities faced with the instability, social disintegration and political insecurity (Fanon, 1963; Said, 1993). Such approaches have examined the emotional and cultural implications of violence, how conflict transforms the consciousness of the individual, as well as the identity of the collective.

Theorists in the field of trauma studies have also approached the issue of literature portraying suffering and survival, and have claimed that the long-term consequences of insecurity, displacement, and social disturbance emerge in the literary works produced in conflict areas (Caruth, 1996; LaCapra, 2001). These views have led to a considerable contribution to the comprehension of the literature in the experiences of loss and vulnerability and also in the documentation of resilience and resistance. In such analyses, material deprivation can be seen as a significant contextual variable, but it seldom takes a place in the forefront of analysis.

The postcolonial critics have also examined the issue of power, marginalization, and representation in the conflict literature. Fanon (1963) states that domination systems often work at both material and psychological levels and create a state of dependency and exclusion that goes beyond the official lines of domination. Likewise, Said (1993) highlights the interrelation of culture and power and it shows how social hierarchies are created by the means of political and economic domination systems. These are especially helpful when we consider social conditions depicted in *The Night of Broken Glass*.

Although these approaches have made a valuable contribution, the political economy of scarcity in the novel has been overlooked by the existing scholarship. Critics have already recognized the state of deprivation and vulnerability, but the food scarcity per se is not theorized as the instrument of power and social control. As a result, the material aspects of power expressed in the text have not been subjected to a critical scrutiny. This lack provides a significant gap in exploring the role of food accessibility in more general systems of domination and dependence.

2.2 Food Scarcity and Literary Studies

Food studies are now an important interdisciplinary discipline, which is interested in the cultural, political and economic aspects of food production, distribution and consumption. The researchers maintain that food is never simply a biological need, but it is a social and political resource that the relations of power are structured and negotiated (Counihan and Van Esterik, 2013; Clapp, 2020). In turn, images of hunger and scarcity are often indicative of deeper patterns of inequality, exclusion, and social control.

Amartya Sen (1981) entitlement approach is one of the most influential in studying scarcity as it questions the intuitive idea that famine is merely a consequence of shortage of food. Sen illustrates that hunger commonly comes out even when food is available since vulnerable populations do not have access to resources, purchasing power, and distribution systems. This argument changed the discourse of scarcity by highlighting the political and economic realities that control access to food instead of paying attention on production levels.

Research has built on what Sen has written by looking at the global systems that influence food insecurity. Patel (2007) states that modern food systems are entrenched in uneven economic formations which favor dominant forces at the expense of the weak. Likewise, Clapp (2020) argues that it is impossible to discuss food insecurity in isolation of the larger issues of governance, ownership, and political power. All these studies support the idea that scarcity is often created by structural inequalities, and not by natural constraints.

In the context of literary critique, the representations of hunger as a social injustice and economic marginalization have become a growing focus of scholars. According to Devereux (2007), food insecurity can be seen as an exposure of the underlying patterns of vulnerability and structural inequality, whereas Maxwell and Fitzpatrick (2012) show that the amplification of scarcity in the systems of political and economic instability can occur. Literary stories about hunger thus offer good prospects of studying the connection between material deprivation and social power.

However, the current food research academia have hardly addressed the dependency theory or the critique of unequal development by Samir Amin. Due to this, significant relationships between the lack of food, structural dependence, and domination systems are not adequately addressed in the literature analysis.

2.3 Samir Amin, Dependency, and Unequal Development

The figure of Samir Amin is at the heart of dependency theory and critical political economy. In opposition to modernization theories which discuss poverty in terms of internal shortage in developing societies, Amin suggests that underdevelopment is actively constructed by unequal economic relations that reinforce dominant communities and oppress the peripheral groups (Amin, 1974; Amin, 1976; Amin, 1977). In this view, scarcity, and deprivation are not inherent but results of historical systems of exploitation and unequal exchange.

The idea of unequal development by Amin questions the linear models of progress by showing how the development in the dominant areas tends to rely on the exploitation of resources and labor by other less dominant groups (Amin, 1974). This results in uneven economic development which generates dependency relations that keep structural inequalities in place. These inequalities limit access to resources and opportunities and at the same time, accumulate power among the dominant institutions.

The dependency theorists also highlight the connection between political authority and economic control. According to Dos Santos (1970), dependency is a state whereby the growth of a group is subjugated to the interests of another. According to Cardoso and Faletto (1979), dependency also creates social structures that recreate inequality and curtail independent development. These interpretations unveil the role of scarcity as not only an economic state but also as a means of ensuring power.

The idea of peripheral marginalization by Amin holds special importance in the comprehension of the issue of food shortage. The peripheral populations are usually characterized by limited access to resources due to the distribution systems giving preference to dominant groups and institutions (Amin, 1976). As a result, deprivation is incorporated into social relations in a structural manner. According to scholars like Chilcote (1981), Namkoong (1999), and Gulalp (1986), the work by Amin is significant in the study of the three factors of dependency, inequality and distribution of resources.

Despite the extensive application of the theory of Amin in the field of development studies and the political economy, its application in the literature criticism is relatively scarce. However, his focus on the control of resources, structural poverty, and dependency offers a useful approach to the analysis of literary depictions of scarcity and domination.

2.4 Food, Power and Political Economy

Food and power have become a growing issue of interest in political economy. Researchers claim that the food systems are defined by the relations of ownership, control, and distribution that define the people who have access to resources, and those who can be deprived (Patel, 2007; Clapp, 2020). Food insecurity is thus a manifestation of deeper social inequalities and not humanitarian crises.

The analysis of power by Foucault (1977) has significant insights into the process through which the control is at work in the daily life. Instead of operating on the basis of direct coercion, power often operates by means of systems of regulation that influence behavior, and yield compliance. The right to food can thus be a major tool of power, where the mainstream groups are able to manipulate social interactions and bondage.

The material basis of power is also highlighted by Marxist scholars. According to Marx and Engels (1978), the resources control is one of the foundations of social domination. Eagleton (1976) and Williams (1977) go on to show how the inequalities of materiality are incorporated into the cultural and ideological frameworks and how conditions of exploitation and exclusion are normalized. These points of view imply that the issue of food scarcity cannot be perceived in isolation of the larger structures of economic and political domination.

Jameson (1986) claims that literary texts very often expose the internal contradictions of global capitalism, displaying the forms of inequality that are hidden in the ideological discourse of the domineering narrative. On the same note, Wallerstein (2004) underlines that the inequality of access to resources is structurally entrenched in world systems where there are core-periphery relationships. These arguments support the view by Amin that scarcity arises due to unequal accumulation and allocation of wealth. All these political-economic views effectively conclude that food shortage is not merely a form of material deprivation. It functions as a process whereby power is wielded, dependency is strengthened and social hierarchies are

upheld.

2.5 Research Gap

Despite the fact that the issues of violence, displacement, trauma, and identity have been widely explored in the past using the Night of Broken Glass, there has been minimal focus on food shortage as a source of power and social control. Similarly, as much as food studies and dependency theory have addressed the political and economic aspects of hunger and inequality, the theory of unequal development and dependency by Samir Amin has not been applied much to the literary descriptions of scarcity. As a result, the interdependence of food shortage, resource ownership, dependence and social stratification in the novel has not been sufficiently theorized. This paper fills this gap by using the framework presented by Amin to explore how food scarcity is a socially constructed phenomenon that strengthens power, marginalization and dependency in the story.

3. The Connection Between Power and Food Scarcity Through Samir Amir's Perspective

This paper uses the theory of unequal development and dependency by Samir Amin to analyze the connection between power and food shortage in *The Night of Broken Glass* by Rather. Amin argues against the common explanations of poverty and deprivation by claiming that underdevelopment is not a natural state of affairs but rather an effect of unequal economic and social setups (Amin, 1974; Amin, 1976). In his opinion, dominant groups remain in power by manipulating resources and restricting access of the marginalized groups to economic opportunities and necessities.

Unequal development is one of the main concepts of Amin that is defined as the imbalance of resources and wealth in society. He contends that the success of certain groups is often at the expense of others in such a ways that they end up in a state of dependency and vulnerability (Amin, 1976). These inequalities make sure that the poor people are bound to those with access to economic and material resources.

Dependency is another concept that is significant in the theory of Amin. Dependency arises when individuals or societies do not have access to the resources they need to survive on their own and thus become dependent on other authorities or those in power (Amin, 1977). The reliance contributes to the strength of the current power hierarchy since control of resources allows the dominant groups to exercise control over social conduct and remain in power. Food is one of the most successful tools with which such control is exercised in situations of scarcity.

Amin also points out that poverty and scarcity are structurally created and not a natural state of things (Amin, 1990). Scarcity is often caused by the existence of unequal distribution systems that benefit some groups and leave others without the opportunity to access the necessary resources. As a result, deprivation gets entrenched in the social relations and leads to the reproduction of the social inequality.

The current study uses the ideas of unequal development, dependency, and structural poverty to examine food insecurity in *The Night of Broken Glass*. Food scarcity as viewed through the prism of Amin is not that of being hungry in a purely technical sense but rather a system of power that has reinforced dependency, marginalization, and social control. This theoretical framework offers the foundation to analyzing the role that access to food has in forming relationships of power and resistance in the novel.

4. Analysis and Discussion

4.1 Food Scarcity and Dependency Production

One of the greatest realities that determine the social landscape of *The Night of Broken Glass* is food scarcity. In the story, Rather does not portray hunger and deprivation in isolation as a condition but as a continuous state of affairs, which affects the daily lives of people and societies. The continuous fight to get food alters survival into a major issue, which impacts the social relations, decision making, and the agency of an individual. The scarcity is a social environment of uncertainty and vulnerability in which access to food not only dictates physical health but also one status in the larger social system. The novel shows that deprivation goes beyond material hardship and is a condition under which inequalities are reproduced and perpetuated. Here, food is revealed as a crucial resource that is lacking and increases dependence and restricts the ability of the marginalized members to control their lives. The portrayal of scarcity by Rather is consistent with the academic literature stating that food insecurity is often based on the unequal access and distribution systems, but not on the mere lack of resources (Sen, 1981; Patel, 2007; Clapp, 2020).

The situation illustrated in the novel can be well comprehended with the concept of dependency as put forward by Samir Amin. According to Amin, dependency is a condition that arises when citizens or

groups of people lose control of the most crucial resources in their lives and they start depending on those who hold economic or social power (Amin, 1977). These relations limit autonomy and support systems of domination, as survival depends on outside authority. Food shortage in *The Night of Broken Glass* creates these very types of dependency, forcing vulnerable groups to depend on a set of systems and people to control the access to basic needs. This dependency undermines opposition and enhances the power of resource owners, establishing unequal relations that reinforce established hierarchies. Another theory articulated by Amin proposes that dependency is not casual but rather systematic as it is created by social arrangements that are unequal, which tends to favor some groups while disadvantaging others (Amin, 1976). The aspect of food scarcity that is presented by Rather is the manifestation of this process, and it is a way that deprivation is used as a mechanism of the creation, maintenance, and normalization of dependency. In turn, the novel unveils that hunger is not a humanitarian issue only, but also a significant tool to the relationships of social and political influence (Amin, 1976; Amin, 1977; Dos Santos, 1970).

4.2 Food Control, Social Hierarchy and Power Relations

The food distribution and control take a central role in the power hierarchy that is embodied in *The Night of Broken Glass*. Instead, Rather shows that the access to food is neither equal nor universal, but rather it is a product of social and economic forces that favor one group over the other. Those, who are more resourceful are relatively secure and influential, and those people, who are deprived, are vulnerable and dependent. The imbalanced food distribution thus plays a role in creation of social classes where power is directly linked to possession of resources. Food is not only a life-sustaining tool, but a source of power that can establish social status, control relationships and reinforce boundaries between dominant and marginalized populations. In this description, the novel reveals the role of the material resources in the structuring of social power and perpetuation of inequality (Patel, 2007; Clapp, 2020; Sen, 1981).

The theory of unequal development by Samir Amin offers a valuable perspective to the interpretation of these dynamics. According to Amin, social and economic systems often allocate resources in a manner that is beneficial to the dominant groups at the expense of the marginalized populations (Amin, 1974; Amin, 1976). This imbalanced allocation results in hierarchical interactions whereby both privilege and deprivation co-exist, thus guaranteeing further accumulation of power in the hands of certain groups in the society. This process is reflected in the conditions depicted in the novel where access to food has become a conditioning factor in the exercise of authority and influence. The control of food resources places those who have this relatively powerful position since the survival of others becomes dependent on their choices and actions. In turn, food scarcity is not merely an expression of economic disadvantage; it turns into a means whereby hierarchies that are already in place are reinforced and justified. The inequality in the distribution of food as depicted by Rather also supports the views of Amin that domination and dependence systems are dependent on the control of key resources (Amin, 1974; Amin, 1976; Cardoso and Faletto, 1979).

4.3 Hunger, Marginalization and Structural Inequality

Hunger in *The Night of Broken Glass* is not merely a physical deprivation, but an observable social disparity and exclusion. Instead, Rather frames food insecurity as a state of affairs that unevenly targets vulnerable people and groups exposing the unequal distribution of resources in society. The inability to obtain sufficient food exposes marginalized groups to further precarious conditions, restricting their opportunities and their role in a social and economic life. Hunger is an indicator of non-belonging, and there is a clear distinction between those who have access to resources and those who are left to languish in insecurity conditions. The novel, in its deprivation, emphasizes the way in which scarcity exacerbates existing disparities and solidifies the susceptibility of already vulnerable groups. The reoccurring nature of hunger proves that food insecurity is tightly connected with the general tendencies of social exclusion and inequality in access to opportunities (Sen, 1981; Devereux, 2007; Maxwell and Fitzpatrick, 2012).

This situation is conceptualizable upon the notion of structural poverty proposed by Samir Amin that highlights how disenfranchisement is frequently created by imbalanced social and economic order and not merely by shortages (Amin, 1990). Amin argues that the existence of systems of unequal development brings about the situation where some groups of people are constantly subjected to limited access to resources leading to endemic poverty and marginalization (Amin, 1976). This view is echoed in the novel as food scarcity reflects a socially constructed situation that is embedded within the wider frameworks of inequality. The marginalized persons are not mere casualties of a temporary misfortune; they are victims of systems that

perpetually generate deprivation, and vulnerability. The continued hunger in the story hence exposes the structural underpinnings of inequality and how scarcity is an aspect that supports the perpetuation of social stratification. The deprivation described by Rather confirms the argument of Amin that poverty and exclusion cannot exist outside of unequal distribution of resources and power in the society (Amin, 1976; Amin, 1990; Wallerstein, 2004).

4.4 Scarcity, Fear and the Politics of Power

The problem of food shortage in *The Night of Broken Glass* is more than the lack of material needs, it has serious psychological implications to individuals and the community. Rather portrays hunger as a situation increasing fear, uncertainty and insecurity, which affects the emotional experiences of the people trying to survive. Daily behavior and decision making are affected by the continual worry about getting food, which brings a feeling of instability. Persons who exist in the state of scarcity, become more and more concerned about sustenance of their immediate needs, which frequently come at the cost of the greater social, political, or personal ambitions. This chronic fear undermines societal trust and enhances vulnerability, exposing marginalized groups to structures of control. In its exploration of the theme of fear and insecurity, the novel shows that hunger does not only impact the body but also the psychological ability of people to act independently and defy the status quo (Sen, 1981; Devereux, 2007; Clapp, 2020).

Scarcity and power are especially interrelated when fear is used as a social control. According to Samir Amin, dependency enhances the powers of the dominant groups since those who do not have access to the basic necessities become even more dependent on those who manipulate them (Amin, 1977). The gastrointestinal dread of starvation in the novel dispels any opposition and promotes obedience, permitting force to work through deprivation instead of brute force. This relationship is similar to that of Michel Foucault who notes that power is normally exercised in a subtle manner where it regulates behavior and shapes decisions without necessarily using force (Foucault, 1977). Instead, how food scarcity is used to affirm power is the idea that it restricts the ability of compromised people to resist unequal systems. Thus, hunger becomes a material and political state with the help of which power is maintained. The novel unveils how scarcity can generate obedience, strengthen dependency, and maintain social hierarchies, unveiling the complexity between food insecurity and the dynamics of power (Amin, 1977; Foucault, 1977; Patel, 2007).

4.5 Food Scarcity and Inequality in Development

The food shortage of *The Night of Broken Glass* is indicative of larger trends of unequal development determining the social and economic lives of the characters. Rather describes deprivation not as an isolated crisis or temporary disruption but as a long-term state deep rooted in the fabric of the society. The food distribution is also disproportionate, whereby, some people have more access to food and others still experience insecurity and difficulty. This unequal allocation of resources divides privileged and marginalized groups and creates a solid position of inequalities that creates no social mobility opportunity. Throughout the novel, it is hinted that scarcity is associated with larger regimes of exclusion that dictate who has access to vital resources and who is susceptible to deprivation. In this description, Rather underlines that hunger is not merely the outcome of the lack of food but the strongly related concept of patterns of inequality that dictate the social life (Sen, 1981; Patel, 2007; Clapp, 2020).

The idea of unequal development by Samir Amin presents an interesting perspective to the understanding of these conditions. According to Amin, development tends to favor the stronger factions of society and at the same time underprivilege others, forming a system where prosperity and poverty co-exist (Amin, 1974; Amin, 1976). The existence of such inequalities is maintained by uneven allocation of resources, opportunities, and economic power. This process is reflected in the social environment of the novel since food scarcity is unevenly distributed among vulnerable populations, and it supports the privileges of those who have more resources. The story of Rather illustrates that deprivation is not incidental but is a structural product of relationships of inequality and exclusion. In this respect, food insecurity can be regarded as a form of unequal development, which shows how the social and economic framework contributes to the reproduction of dependency and marginalization. The novel thus lends credence to Amin that scarcity needs to be seen in a wider context of systems of power that influence how people and groups obtain access to resources and how they live (Amin, 1974; Amin, 1976; Wallerstein, 2004).

4.6 Survival and Resistance under Conditions of Scarcity

Nevertheless, despite the ubiquitous nature of food scarcity, *The Night of Broken Glass* does not depict the marginalized people as mere victims of deprivation. Instead, the book offers different resilience and adaptation strategies by which people and societies are trying to manage the ongoing hunger and insecurity situations. Competition to survive promotes the emergence of survival strategies to ensure food and social connections, as well as human dignity amidst adversity. Such reactions indicate the ability of vulnerable groups to go through tough situations and confront total domination of systems that aim at perpetuation of dependency. The novel raises the importance of such representations to show how people can be determined to go on despite facing harsh material constraints. Survival thus becomes a significant manifestation of agency that helps the characters to face the reality of scarcity without losing a sense of purpose and identity (Sen, 1981; Fanon, 1963; Devereux, 2007).

Continuity of survival tactics also bears immense implications on the power dynamics that are at play in the novel. Although food shortage enhances the dependency and supports social hierarchy, endurance acts expose the boundaries of domination and bring forth the potential of resistance. Samir Amin believes that forces of dependency cannot be stable at all since the groups of people confined to the margins will always find a way of making themselves less dependent on the dominant structures and enhance their material conditions (Amin, 1977). The novel captures this viewpoint by showing how people bargain, defy and at times oppose the limits set by scarcity. Resistance is not necessarily overt resistance, but can be manifested in daily survival practices that render ineffective those systems founded on deprivation and control. Through the depiction of resiliency, and vulnerability, Rather shows that scarcity creates not only dependency but the possibility of resistance and change. *The Night of Broken Glass*, therefore, brings out survival as a reaction to deprivation, a form of resistance, albeit in a subtle way, against unequal power structures, showing the multifaceted nature of the linkage between scarcity, agency, and social change (Amin, 1977; Fanon, 1963; Patel, 2007).

5. Conclusion

The discussion of *The Night of Broken Glass* by Rather proves that food scarcity is one of the key mechanisms that create, exercise, and perpetuate power in the story. Instead represents hunger not as a state of material deprivation but as a socially constructed fact that produces dependency, strengthens social inequalities, margins further, and establishes relations of authority. The theoretical approach of Samir Amin shows that scarcity is deeply connected with the unequal regimes of resource allocation, which benefit some groups of people and do not allow others to enjoy the basic needs. The novel also shows the fear, vulnerability, and dependency that arise as a result of food insecurity, which allows dominant structures to perpetuate their dominance over the marginalized groups. Meanwhile, the survival and resilience acts undermines such domination and discloses the chance of opposition in the circumstances of deprivation. Finally, *The Night of Broken Glass* introduces the concept of food shortage as the effect of uneven development and structural inequality, and it is important to note that the nature of control over resources and relationships between power and society are complex.

References

- Amin, S. (1974). *Accumulation on a world scale: A critique of the theory of underdevelopment* (Vols. 1–2). New York, NY: Monthly Review Press.
- Amin, S. (1976). *Unequal development: An essay on the social formations of peripheral capitalism*. New York, NY: Monthly Review Press.
- Amin, S. (1977). *Imperialism and unequal development*. New York, NY: Monthly Review Press.
- Amin, S. (1990). *Delinking: Towards a polycentric world*. London, England: Zed Books.
- Cardoso, F. H., & Faletto, E. (1979). *Dependency and development in Latin America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Caruth, C. (1996). *Unclaimed experience: Trauma, narrative, and history*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Chilcote, R. H. (1981). Theories of development and underdevelopment. *Westview Special Studies on Latin America and the Caribbean*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Clapp, J. (2020). *Food* (3rd ed.). Cambridge, England: Polity Press.

Liberal Journal of Language & Literature Review

Print ISSN: 3006-5887

Online ISSN: 3006-5895

- Counihan, C., & Van Esterik, P. (Eds.). (2013). *Food and culture: A reader* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Devereux, S. (2007). *The impact of droughts and floods on food security and policy options to alleviate negative effects*. *Agricultural Economics*, 37(S1), 47–58.
- Dos Santos, T. (1970). The structure of dependence. *American Economic Review*, 60(2), 231–236.
- Eagleton, T. (1976). *Marxism and literary criticism*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Fanon, F. (1963). *The wretched of the earth*. New York, NY: Grove Press.
- Foucault, M. (1977). *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison*. New York, NY: Pantheon Books.
- Gülalp, H. (1986). Dependency and the state in the peripheral social formation: The case of Turkey. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 23(1), 80–95.
- Jameson, F. (1986). Third-world literature in the era of multinational capitalism. *Social Text*, 15, 65–88.
- LaCapra, D. (2001). *Writing history, writing trauma*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1978). *The Marx-Engels reader* (R. C. Tucker, Ed., 2nd ed.). New York, NY: W. W. Norton.
- Maxwell, D., & Fitzpatrick, M. (2012). The 2011 Somalia famine: Context, causes, and complications. *Global Food Security*, 1(1), 5–12.
- Namkoong, Y. (1999). Dependency theory: Concepts, classifications, and criticisms. *International Area Review*, 2(1), 121–150.
- Patel, R. (2007). *Stuffed and starved: The hidden battle for the world food system*. Brooklyn, NY: Melville House.
- Said, E. W. (1993). *Culture and imperialism*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Sen, A. (1981). *Poverty and famines: An essay on entitlement and deprivation*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.
- Wallerstein, I. (2004). *World-systems analysis: An introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Williams, R. (1977). *Marxism and literature*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.