

## MEMORY RECOLLECTION IN PATRICK MODIANO'S THE SEARCH WARRANT

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Mr. Aglave Ganpat Shriram\*

### ABSTRACT

*Struggle for identity is a main principle of any literature. Literature is a source of inspiration for all ages, which is proved through with its different genres. Fiction of Patrick Modiano is not exceptional to this. Modiano's childhood life was not stable. He was born on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1945 in France. He was brought up by his Flemish maternal grandparents. He confesses that his elementary education didn't take place properly due to his parents' background. In his childhood he used to speak only Flemish and later who became a French writer which is surprising for the lovers of literature. This journey to get him Nobel Prize for literature in 2014. His writing contains full of struggle and trying to make his identity in the society with his past. Till 2014 his most of the work was translated in more than thirty languages. Simultaneously Modiano has portrayed plight, loss and status of Jew community in his most of the writings. Almost his all narrators reveal his own life as in The Search Warrant. The Search Warrant is an autobiography where he is trying to recollect his past with his shattered memories. In the critical point of view he tried his level best to uncover the plight and situation of Jews during the Second World War. In throughout the novel Modiano is recollecting his memories with the help of protagonist. It was mandatory for Jews in France to report themselves to police in 1940. And Dora a fifteen year girl was not reported and a missing report was filled. As usual his father Ernest also was not reported to police being a Jew and the consequences are the same for Dora and for his father in the future. Memory recollection is a major finding of The Search Warrant. His fiction gives much importance to time; time is dominant in his novels. He searches his past with his characters. His childhood was not a normal one and he repents for it in his most of the works. His mania to look in past and to search something which is lost is a main principle of his writing. There are ample of evidences in his writing which uncover that Jews were not treated properly in those days.*

**Keywords:** Patrick Modiano, Search Warrant, Autobiography, Shattered Memories.

### Introduction

The post-colonial literature depicts the modern world with its different genres. Fiction plays a vital role in modern literature. Since 2000 mode of writing a literature is associated with modern techniques. Modiano was born in Paris at Boulogne Billancourt in western Paris. His father was Italian Jewish and his mother was Belgian so, it was his different and unusual background due to he didn't receive love from his parents in his childhood. His mother was a Flemish actress and from his parental side he belongs to well known Modiano family. The mania of looking in past is reflected in his work extensively. His childhood took place in a unique atmosphere. His maternal grandparents taught him Flemish language as his first language. He had much affection for his brother Rudy who died early and Modiano dedicated his most of works to his brother to recollect memories. The Search Warrant is a very crucial work at a time it is biography, autobiography and a

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\* Assistant Professor in English, Karmavir Mahavidyalaya, Mul, Chandrapur, Maharashtra, India.

detective novel too. In a novel writer is looking in his past to reconnect his past memories. This research paper aims to find out the similar factors and incidents in the novel with the novelist. Throughout the novel writer looking in his past to reconnect his memories with the protagonist.

### **Research Methodology**

Researcher has adopted descriptive, analytical and comparative methodology to gain the objectives of this research paper. Missing person is another work by the same writer is compared with the search warrant. Mania of the writer is properly studied by the researcher. As a primary resource translated version in English by Joanna Kilmartin is studied properly to find out the objectives of this research paper. As secondary sources articles and quotes by critics are analyzed by researcher. Researcher has compared Jew community with other communities and find out similarities and differences among them.

### **Objectives of this Research Paper**

This research paper aims to study the different aspects of *The Search Warrant*. The main aim is to study the mania of the author. The Search Warrant at a time is a biography, autobiography and a detective work too. So, it works in a different mode as per the reader's interest. To prove this researcher has given the enough evidences from the text. To find out the plight of Jew community is also the objective of this paper. To study the situation of Jew community during the Second World War. To compare this community with others is also the objectives. To study the loss in Modiano's life this can be compared with his community.

### **Memory Recollection in The Search Warrant**

"Missing a young girl Dora Bruder, age 15, height 1.55m, oval-shaped face, grey-brown eyes, grey sports jacket, maroon pullover, navy- blue skirt and hat, brown gym shoes. Address all information to M. and Mme Bruder, 41 Boulevard Ornano, Paris". These are the beginning line of The Search Warrant. These lines reveals the childhood memories of Patrick Modiano. These lines are appeared in Paris Soir. The address which was mentioned in the missing report was very familiar to the writer. The writer has visited to the said address and began his investigation, therefore this work can be called as a detective one. It was a time of German occupation in Paris and Dora Bruder was a teenage Jewish girl who was not reported to the police. Jewish need to report to the police was the rule in Paris during the second world war. The writer had much affection to the given address because he had spent his childhood at this place. So, he has affection for the place. *The Search Warrant* can be called an autobiography. Parents of the Dora Bruder sent her to catholic school but she used to ran away from the school. The writer has the schooling resemblance with Dora. On every page of this novel reader gets the sense of loss in a different form. Time plays important role in writers life and the same is reflected indirectly in almost his all works. There is loss of something in his past but one can't say the definite loss of writer. Inference can be that loss of childhood, loss of parents love which is depend on the readers view. In a critical point of view time is a major theme in his novels. In The Search Warrant time plays a crucial role that all incidents in Dora's life writer trying to connect with his own life in indirect way. In the novel writer has added his personal experiences through the protagonist.

The above evidences from the Search Warrant proves that, Patrick Modiano is trying to reconnect his memories with Dora so, it can be called as an autobiography. I quote from the text the narrator says, 'I imagine that, by the age of fourteen, she must have given proof of independence, and that the rebellious spirit which her cousin had mentioned to me would already have manifested itself. Her parents felt that she was in need of discipline. For this, these Jews chose a Christian institution. But were they themselves practicing Jews? And what choice did they have? According to the biographical note on the institution's Mother superior at the time when Dora was a boarder there, the pupils at the Convent of The Holy Heart of Mary came from poor background: "Often, they are orphans, or children dependent on social welfare, those to whom Our Lord has always given His special love." And, in a brochure on the Sisters of the Christian Schools of Divine Mercy: "The vocation of the Holy Heart of Mary is to render signal service to infants and young girls from the capital's underprivileged families." These lines prove that the condition of Jews during Second World War. Also reveals the mentality of Christian towards Jews. In those days Jews were fascinated by Christian missionary school to regulate their children for discipline. But writer pointed out in above lines Christian people practicing Jews. Such instances in the work prove that status of Jews in those days was secondary in compare to white people. And it proves they were discriminated.

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