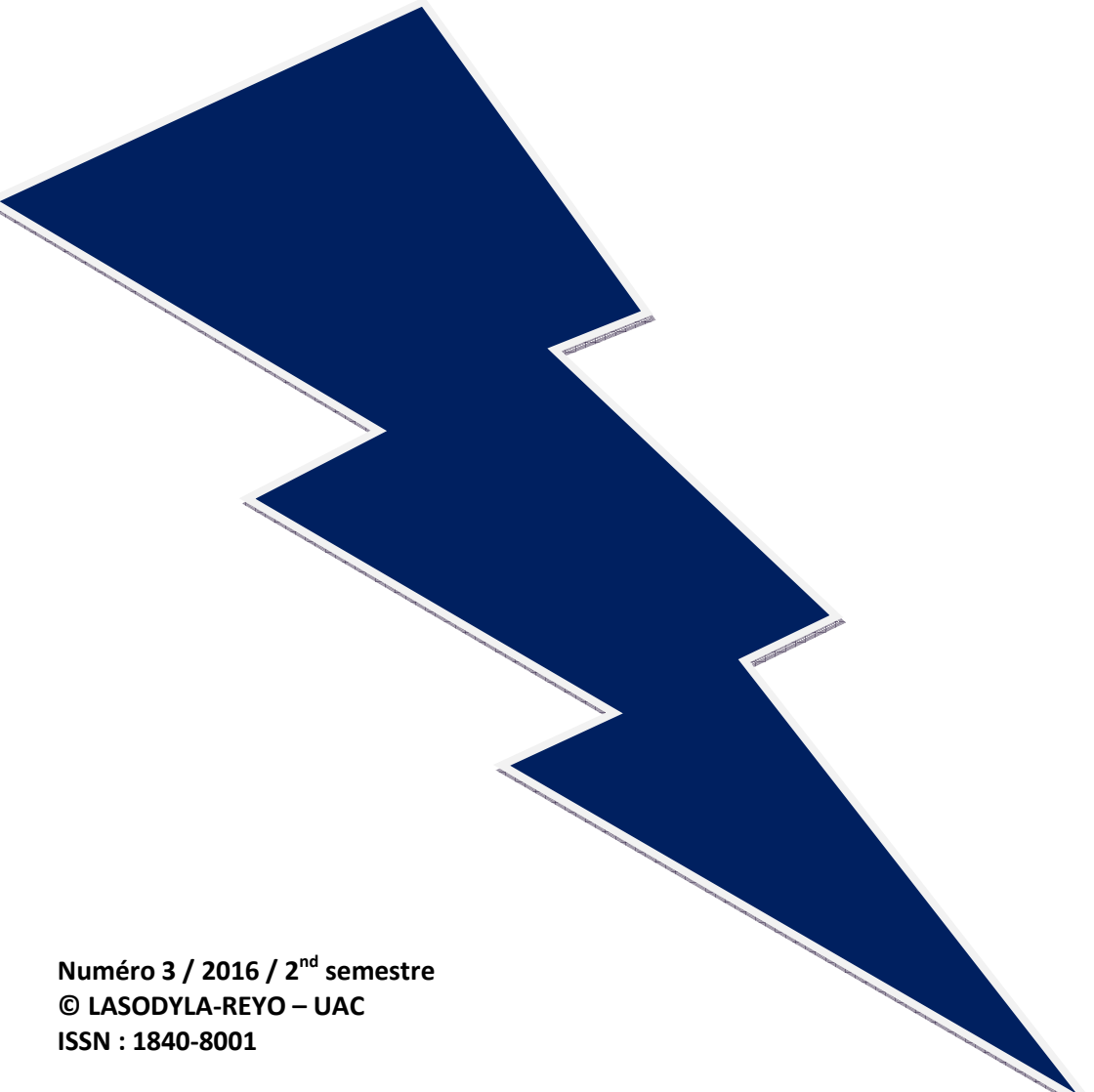


# ReSciLaC

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## Présentation

ReSciLaC (Revue des Sciences du Langage et de la Communication) est une revue du Laboratoire de Sociolinguistique, Dynamique des Langues et Recherche en Yoruba (LASODYLA-REYO) de l'Université d'Abomey-Calavi (UAC). ReSciLaC est une revue pluridisciplinaire qui accueille des contributions abordant un grand nombre de champs d'études des sciences humaines et sociales.

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# ReSciLaC

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**THE PLACE OF THE DEVIL AND THE ANGEL IN  
A HOME IN DAVID H. LAWRENCE'S SONS AND  
LOVERS AND THE WHITE PEACOCK: AN  
AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE**

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**Résumé**

*Cet article est une étude comparative de la valeur morale de l'homme et la femme au foyer. David Herbert Lawrence est né de parents querelleurs et la vie familiale qu'il a expérimentée ne lui était pas favorable. SONS AND LOVERS et THE WHITE PEACOCK ont profondément exploré la vie familiale. Comme nous le savons tous la liturgie anglicane a mis l'accent sur l'indissolubilité du mariage entre l'homme et la femme car les mariages étaient en principe par convenance et non par imposition. Dans SONS AND LOVERS, Gertrude est tombée amoureuse de Morel Walter et l'a épousé sans l'avoir forcée. Normalement la maison devrait être un abri pour l'homme et la femme avec leurs enfants devraient vivre et essayer de jouir le mieux qu'ils le peuvent. Dans une maison, surtout en Afrique, l'époux est le protecteur, le représentant de Dieu et personne ne peut lui dénier de ce pouvoir. Dans THE WHITE PEACOCK Margaret n'a pas réussi à embrigader George à la maison. Dans ce car d'espèce de mariage et la vie familiale, loin d'être un succès est plutôt devenu un fiasco. La famille garde souvent les conséquences horribles de ce conflit à l'intérieur de la famille pour le reste de sa vie. Paul Morel ne pourrait jamais oublier la lutte entre son père et sa mère. Mais beaucoup de pesanteurs surtout socio économiques expliquent cette crise qui pourrit la vie dans le cercle familial et empêche ses membres d'y vivre harmonieusement. Cette étude loin de crucifier la femme et de la rendre seule et entièrement responsable de tous les maux qui minent la famille ose conclure toutefois que l'homme est l'ange dans une maison.*

**Mots-clés :** le démon - l'ange - mari et femme-mariage-domicile

## **Abstract**

This article is a comparative of the moral value of the man and the woman in a family. David Herbert Lawrence was born of quarrelsome parents, and the home life he experienced with them was not a success. *SONS AND LOVERS* AND *THE WHITE PEACOCK* have deeply questioned the family life. As all know, the Anglican liturgy placed an emphasis on this indissolubility tie between man and woman. Marriages in principle were marriages of inclination, not marriages of convenience. I have comparatively studied man and woman in the two novels. In *Sons and Lovers* Gertrude fell in love with Walter Morel and married him. Nobody forced her. Normally a home should be a kind of nest, a place of refuge, a cozy shelter where man and woman, together with their children live and try to enjoy life the best way they can. In a home, namely in Africa, the husband is the protector, and the representative of God in the family and nobody could challenge his right to exert this power. In *The White Peacock* Margaret did not succeed in keeping George at home. In that case, marriage and home life, far from being a success becomes instead a complete fiasco. The family often carries with themselves the dreadful consequences of struggle and conflict within the family for the rest of their lives. Paul Morel could never forget the struggle between his fathers and his mother. But many factors explain the struggle which undermines life within the family circle and prevent its members from living harmoniously. This study far from crucifying woman as the only and responsible of all the troubles within a family dares conclude the man (husband) is the angel in a home. **Key words:** *The devil-the angel-husband and wife- marriage-home.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

A home is a kind of nest a place of refuge, a cozy shelter where man and woman, together with their children live and try to enjoy life the best way they can. Whatever trouble they may be experiencing inside home, man, woman and children expect to find happiness, tenderness, all that they feel may be wanting for their own psychological and moral balance at home. But when there is a lack of understanding and happens in the bosom of the household each partner generally lays the

blank on the other. The husband condemns the wife and the husband taking one another for either the devil or the angel. Yet, many factors such as social background, education and upbringing, economic or material living conditions, industrialization, society, the characters of the members of the family concur to explain the struggle which undermines life within the family circle and prevent its members from living harmoniously. In my article I have analysed this eternal question of the devil and the angel in a home as seen through D. H. LAWRENCE'S *Sons and lovers* and *The White Peacock* viewed from African perspective. This paper has first of all focused on the home-life and the sources of the difficulties of its members in the two novels. The section deals with the profound nature of the main members of the home. The third part is an African conception of the topic.

### **Home-life and the sources of the difficulties of its members in the two novels**

If I take into account how home-life has been described so far in the novels, I am inclined to think that it is the male partner, the father and presumably the protector of the family, who is responsible of the chaos prevailing in the house. He is often described as a devil who turns home-life into a hell (Walter Morel in *Sons and Lovers* in a vivid example of such a man), whereas the wife and the mother is often depicted as an angel who struggles against her 'devilish' husband to make her home look like paradise. And yet I should not lay the blame on any member of the home, because many

reasons can explain the misunderstanding and discomfort in a home.

D.H. Lawrence is an acute observer of society. In the two novels I am dealing with, he wrote about the nineteenth –century England, the England of Queen Victoria. At that period of the Industrial Revolution in Britain, the barriers between classes were seen by Lawrence as obstacles to real living relationship between people. There were different classes on the social ladder. As far as my study is concerned, there were people of the lower rank, the class of laborers who were often straightforward people. Their reactions were rather instinctive like Walter Morel in *Sons and Lovers*, George Tempest, and Annable, the game keeper in *The White Peacock*. On the other hand there were people of higher rank on the social ladder. It is the class of educated intellectual and religious people such as Gertrude Coppard in *Sons and Lovers*, Lettie Beardsall, and Lady Chrystabel in *The White Peacock*. As Seydou BADIAN (1973) advises “Il est dans l’ordre des choses que la fille qui nage bien soit donnée à un bon piroguier”<sup>1</sup>. BADIAN’s therapy may prevent marital traffic-jams.

Apart from the social backgrounds, there are other reasons which undermine home-life. Material conditions are very important elements for peace and harmony and real happiness in a home. Some of these elements are housing, clothing, food, health, education and other facilities, including entertainment etc. Bad living conditions are often sources of suffering, misunderstanding and bitterness in home. The Morels in

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<sup>1</sup>Seydou BADIAN, *Sous l’Oragesuivi de la mort de Chaka*, présence africaine p. 151

*Sons and Lovers* and the Annables in *The White Peacock* are two vivid examples of this state of affairs. So far I have endeavored to speak about some of the problems which undermine harmony in a home. Now, I am going to analyse the profound nature of the main members of the family.

### **The profound nature of the main members (Man and Woman) of the home**

At the beginning of their experience, the lovers have imagined each other like guideless, lovely and innocent persons. But their coexistence does not always prove the same thing, for their real qualities and defects appear thoroughly then. Each partner has good and bad sides.

In *Sons and Lovers*, Mrs Morel was depicted like an angelic woman. She was always looking after her home. She saw to it that each member of her family could have what he or she needed for his or her well-being. Despite her difficult living condition, poverty and unhappiness, she tried her best to satisfy each member of her family. She always busied herself with cooking, washing, sewing, putting the house in order, looking after her children and her husband. She was a quick, poised and brave woman who went about her housework courageously even when she was in bad health. Her children, especially Paul were aware of this: "His mother was ill, distant, quiet, shadowy... Her eyes seemed to grow darker, her face more waxen, still she dragged about at her work."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>David Herbert LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*,, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979p. 448

She endured her material, moral and, above all, physical suffering patiently, always seeking to make the most of what she had for her husband and children's sake. She promoted William and Paul's ambitions, which distinguished them from other working men's children in Eastwood, and thanks to her will power, she supervised the actions of all the members of her family. Gertrude Morel was a woman with honest soul who accepted her fate. Despite the tragedy of her marriage, she remained courageous. This valiant woman always gave more than she received. Even when she was worn out, she usually did what was expected of her until her closing years. Although she had endured harshness and bitterness, she yet felt bound to her house and devoted to her husband. Because of her bad health, Annie, her married daughter, brought her to her house to look after her. In fact Mrs Morel was tired, worn out, with a weak heart and yet she did not want to stay with her daughter. She preferred to come back to her own home: "Don't think I didn't like your house, Annie", she said; "but it's nice to be in my own home again." And Morel answered huskily: "It is, lass, it is."<sup>3</sup>

In the same novel, another woman, Mrs Leivers was described as a good, patient, peace-loving wife and mother. Her only preoccupation was her housework. She endured any kind of brutality from her husband and sons with love and abnegation. She accepted her lot without complaining: "The mother sat in silence, suffering, like

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<sup>3</sup> David Herbert LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979p .460

some saint out of place at the brutal board.”<sup>4</sup> She even asked Miriam her only daughter to be like herself and to do all that was expected of her as a woman.

In the *White Peacock* Meg was always busy seeking to make her husband change and become wise and a teatotaller, doing very quickly her house work and looking after her children with the enthusiasm of a woman who really loved her home. Cyrill, a friend of theirs noticed this with great satisfaction: “When we went downstairs, the table was cleared and Meg was bathing the dark baby. Thus she was perfect.”<sup>5</sup>

Lettie was a virtuous woman, a virtuous wife, and a virtuous mother too. She was mindful of her husband especially when the latter had to go to work far from home: “I should not let you go away into the cold without having seen you take a good breakfast.”<sup>6</sup>

Once she got into touch with the dreadful reality of home life and found out that this reality was different from what she had dreamt of as a naïve lover, Lettie gave up her dream and her own heyday. She stayed and tried her best to look after and really take care of her home, that is to say her husband and children. In the same novel Mrs Lettie Beardsall, Cyrill and Lettie’s mother did not leave her house when her senseless husband left her with the children. She stayed with them and saw to it that they were well educated. Although she was alone to bring

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<sup>4</sup> David Herbert LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979p.182

<sup>5</sup> David Herbert LAWRENCE, *The White Peacock*, English Penguin English Library, 1982 p. 355

<sup>6</sup> David Herbert LAWRENCE, *The White Peacock*, English Penguin English Library, 1982 p.344

them up, she strove to provide them with good living conditions. Besides, her children had seen her toiling in order to support them. That was why the latter felt no love for their father.

Annable the gamekeeper's wife was a courageous woman too. Despite the obvious poverty in which she lived she did not abandon her home. She carried on the struggle with misery and tried to manage it one way or the other, especially after her husband's death. She carried alone the heavy burden of a fatherless home with numerous children. And yet despite all the qualities of these women, we can wonder whether a woman is a perfect human being, if she can really be considered as an angel.

If I analyse Mrs Lettice Beards all in *The White Peacock*, I can wonder if she was a woman of fine character. Apparently, she was a noble woman. Her children thought that she was the most courageous and the most virtuous woman who had ever existed. And yet when I take into account her behavior as somebody's wife, and the mother of a family, I may ask myself if she was really an angel. It is true that her husband had offended her by leaving the home like the most abominable traitor whereas his children were still toddlers. I cannot deny the fact that he left his wife alone to carry the heavy burden of home life. But I must also acknowledge that her husband, Mr Frank Beardsall did not remain a permanent hooligan. He repented and wanted to come back to his children, but the mother jealously kept them away from their father, as if the latter had no right to the children.

If she were a real angel and had wanted to play her role as a woman, a wife and the mother of the family, she should have accepted her husband's repentance and welcomed him to their home. A good mother should be a good-hearted woman who easily forgives the harm which has been done to her. But Mrs Reardsall merely ignored her husband. She despised him and maintained the children's hatred for their father. The poor father, not knowing what to do, and seeing himself drifting towards death, ended his life in a deserted house as if he had no family. His wife was such a hard-hearted woman that she did not even bother to attend her husband's burial. At last she confessed her fault and, overwhelmed by remorse, she revealed to her children that she misbehaves vis-à-vis that man who was her husband and her children's father:

“You know”, she said “he had a right to the children, and I've kept them all the time... I set them against him, I have kept them from him and he wanted them... I ought to have taken you to him long ago... I have been cruel to him.”<sup>7</sup>

It was too late when she understood her mistake. It's a pity, since the man was already dead and the children had lived and would continue to live without ever enjoying their father's company. The only person who was to blame was the mother, for all this happened because of her selfishness.

In the same novel, as far as Meg and George's home is concerned, I say that despite the husband's mistakes, the woman was not an angel as such. It is not only the woman who should be understood and pampered

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<sup>7</sup>David Herbert LAWRENCE, *The White peacock*, English Penguin English Library, 1982 p.76

by her husband. The man also needs affection and tenderness from his wife who has assumed the role of his mother since the day she accepted to marry him. I have seen in the novel that George was a desperate man, because he loved Lettie and wished to marry her, but the latter let him down for another man. George who was seeking a kindred spirit thought that Meg would comfort him. He thought that Meg was a tender and loving girl. And yet in the long run, she did not prove to be what was thought about her at the beginning. Just as I said in my introduction, a home should be a kind of nest, a refuge and everlasting source of happiness where a man and a woman together with their children try to enjoy life as best as they can. Once he is back home, each member expects to find happiness and comfort in his family. But this is not George's case. His wife just cast him off and she, along with the children, treated him as an alien.

Although D.H. Lawrence seemed to side with women, and depicted them in their homes like poor martyrs, he ended up sympathizing with men, and he even felt sorry for them, for they too felt bitterly disillusioned about home life. He wrote about George: "Later, the marriage is shown to give George so little that he is a wreck of a man, fallen on drink and despair."<sup>8</sup>

If Meg were really "nice and meek"<sup>9</sup> like her daughter took pleasure in telling the father, she would have tried to be understanding and would have attracted him back. She would probably have managed to bring

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<sup>8</sup>David Herbert LAWRENCE, *The White peacock*, English Penguin English Library, 1982 p.392

<sup>9</sup>David Herbert LAWRENCE, *The White peacock*, p.395

her husband back to better feelings and both of them would have had a happier home life. But neither the mother, nor the children cared about the father. The pitiable man complained of his wife's behavior in the following manner: "It's their mother's bringin' up-she marded'em till they were soft and would never let me have a say in it."<sup>10</sup>

At the end of the novel, I can see that the poor husband and father was downcast and grievously drifting towards death. On the very last page of the novel, the author described the father of the family's despair in such an affecting way: "His dark eyes alive with horror and despair.... "I shall soon – be out of everybody's way!" he said. His moment of fear and despair was cruel... "the sooner I clear out, the better," he repeated to himself... he sat apart and obscure among us, like a condemned man."<sup>11</sup>

The reader may wonder about that man's exclusion. I may ask myself who had condemned him and who should rescue him from his tragic plight. George's loneliness was worse than that of a bachelor. Who should then be blamed for the misery of that married man?

I have thus seen so far that women who were presented like poor martyrs were not guiltless or pure as such. What about the so-called devilish men?

The man, whether husband or father is too easily perceived as the embodiment of a devil and as a wicked person; and yet I must take a good look and have an in –

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<sup>10</sup>Ibid, p. 408

<sup>11</sup>Ibid, p.410

depth analysis and understanding of his behaviours and feelings as a human being.

In *Sons and Lovers*, Walter Morel who seemed to be a wild animal to the members of his family, and even to the reader, was above all a very decent and good – natured person. He was not such a bad man.

There is no justification that he should merely be thrown to hell without being judged. He was a human being and he had good feelings for his wife and children. When his wife gave birth to their first baby, despite his defects, he commiserated with her on her sufferings and he tried his best to be kind and tender to her:

“Gertrude Morel was very ill when the boy was born. Morel was good to her, as good as gold.”<sup>12</sup>

Later on, when Paul was born, the father was an affectionate and an understanding husband. Seeing that his wife was suffering from poor health, Walter Morel was not exacting. He tried his best to comfort her and to show her that he really loved her. He realized that in this condition it would be very difficult for her to drag about her work, and he hastened forward with his help, making his own and his wife’s breakfast, and even doing some housework:

“Quickened by penitence... he did not, as some miners do drag his wife out of bed at six o’clock... Then he went upstairs to his wife with a cup of tea because she was ill... “Drink it up; it’ll pop thee off to sleep again.” It pleased him to see her take it and sip it.”<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> David Herbert LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979 p. 23

<sup>13</sup> David Herbert LAWRENCE, *Ibid*, p. 38-39

If the husband were a brute, a cruel person and a heartless man, he would not have behaved so tenderly with his wife. Even when Walter Morel quarreled with his wife and bullied her, and even wounded her, he did not remain cold and remorseless. Seeing her suffering, he regretfully came back to her to comfort her in his own way: "What has it done to thee lass?" he asked in a very wretched, humble tone... "Let me tie it for thee" he said humbly. He lay and suffered..."<sup>14</sup>

Despite Morel's apparent irresponsibility and lack of concern about his home, he was a very important character in the home and nobody, not even his wife could do without him. He was the bread-winner and his wife was quite aware of this fact. He spent all his days underground, in the pits, working very hard to earn a living for his family. One day, being fed up with his quarrelsome wife he left the home and threatened never to come back. Mrs Morel was the more aware of the danger of the father's departure since the children were still small and she was unable to support the home alone financially. Even when her husband had a bad accident in the pits, she readily looked after him, for despite the strong hatred that she felt for her husband, in her heart of hearts, she did not wish he would die or be away from home. She had realized that the welfare of the family was tightly conditioned by the man, the husband, and the father's labour and by his income: "Another part fretted because of keeping the children, and inside her, as yet,

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<sup>14</sup> David Herbert LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979p. 55

she could not quite let him go... The children were yet young, and depended on the breadwinner.”<sup>15</sup>

So if Walter Morel had been so naughty, his wife would not have felt so tightly linked to the man she apparently hated and despised. Furthermore, despite the scandal which told about this father of the family, he often came back to his home and lived in harmony with the members of the pleasure of being in their father’s company and working together with him. Then it was no more the bad relationship which usually existed between a brutal, a drunkard and wicked father who really enjoyed life with his children, and the latter were quite happy to take delight in this reunion. It was so marvelous to see the father playing his role and enjoying life together with his own children, cobbling the boots or mending the kettle or his pit-bottle:

“The only time when he entered again into the life of his own people was when he worked, and was happy at work... Then he always wanted several attendants, and the children enjoyed it. They united with him in the work, in actual doing of something, when he was real self again.... Then the children watched with joy.... And he was rather happy.”<sup>16</sup>

Moreover, Walter Morel was a tender father; he was always kind and soft with his children, especially when they were ill. The father’s attitude when Paul was ill clearly showed what a kind and affectionate father he was, although the boy wanted his father to be far from

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David Herbert LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979 pp. 59 and 80

<sup>16</sup> DAVID HERBERT, LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979 p. 82

him, because he did not want to see him at all. Despite his son's hatred, the father tried his best to comfort him:

“The father would come into the sick-room. He was always very gentle if anyone were ill... “Are they asleep, my darling? ‘Morel asked softly.... “Do you want anything?”..... At last Morel, after having stood looking at his son a while, said softly: “Good-night, my darling.”<sup>17</sup>

If Walter Morel were a real devil or Satan in his home as was thought of him right from the beginning of the novel, he would always be violent under any circumstances with any member of the family. And yet we find out that his reactions were those of a human being with some positive aspects. Later on, when Paul went to see him at work the father was very enthusiastic to see his son:

“Hello, he said rather tenderly to his son... Shall you have a drink of something?”<sup>18</sup>

Right from the beginning of the novel, despite his reputation of a brutal father, Walter Morel clearly proved to be a sweet father. He was very fond of Arthur their fourth child who loved and immediately reacted when he felt the proximity of his father:

“Hearing the miner's footsteps, the baby would put up his arms and crow... He called back immediately, in his hearty, mellow voice: “What then, my beautiful? I sh'll come to thee in a minute”... the baby was smutted on the face from

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<sup>17</sup>Ibid, pp. 86-87

<sup>18</sup>David Herbert, LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979 p. 93

his father's kisses and play. Then Morel laughed joyfully."<sup>19</sup>

And yet, despite all the father's effort to be loving, gentle and affectionate to his children, the latter remained strongly against him, and this made Him suffer all the more since he felt that he lacked something as the father of the family. Despite all his endeavour to lure his children back to himself and to enjoy their sympathy, they merely avoided him. Their only friend and confidante was their mother. They shared all their feelings with her. As soon as the father entered his home, the happy machinery of home life stopped. It seemed that his closeness brought life in his own home to a standstill. This state of affairs upset the poor father a lot, since he was always aware of this sudden silence anytime he came within the family circle, which turned him into a virtual outcast : "He would dearly have liked the children to talk to him..."<sup>20</sup>

It is very distressing for a man who spent all his life underground in the pits, toiling and ruining his health and even going through dangers at work in order to provide his family, specially his children with a means of living to realize that the latter are radically ungrateful to him. No human being can accept this and Walter Morel, the wretched father, felt very bitter in his self-esteem. His own case was quite understandable, for nobody can accept to be treated like that. It is disheartening to hear the poor man complaining about his

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<sup>19</sup>Ibid, p.63-64

<sup>20</sup>David Herbert, LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books Sons and Lovers, p.81

dreadful plight: “Then, sometimes, the father would contemptuous hatred of his children. “There’s not a man tries harder for his family... He does his best for them, and then gets treated like a dog.”<sup>21</sup>

One day, when William was about to beat his father because he was quarrelling with their mother, Walter Morel in his bitterness could not help accusing his wife of their children’s hatred. His complaint saddens the reader very much and makes one feel very for him: “What have I done to the children, I should like to know? But they’re like yourself, you’ve put ‘em up to your own tricks and nasty ways”.<sup>22</sup>

### **African conception**

Coming to the **African** conception of the question, we really observe that in *Sons and Lovers* Mrs Morel had to experience this bitter reality. Her plight occurred in the England of the end of the nineteenth century. And yet nowadays, I notice that the same thing happens in Africa. The man or woman’s in-laws also hate him or her because he or she is sprung from a social rank lower or higher than the in-laws. He or she is thus considered as a commoner or as a snob. The woman is often said to be illbred or to have no manners.

They are thus eager to get rid of the undesirable person and they try their best to urge her to leave the “family” i. e. the wide African Family. She is treated as if she has committed a crime by accepting to marry their son. Then if she does not go away, she will have to

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<sup>21</sup>David Herbert, LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979 p. 143

<sup>22</sup>*Ibid*, p. 77

experience a dreary endurance in her home. Such a situation is rather exasperating. Moreover, the married woman, the wife, the "assi" as I call her in my language should not despise the members of her family in-law. She should love them and consider them as her own parents. They should be welcomed in her home and feel at ease when they come and visit her and her husband. She should try and adapt herself to their habits and fulfill her duties towards them. The same attitude goes to the brothers and even all the family in-law. They should wonder what their feeling would be if they or any of their sons or daughters had to go through such a hardship.

Something is very upsetting in some African or Beninese husbands' behavior. When he is quarrelling with his wife, he shouts at her, asking her to leave his house, to go away, as if the woman has no house and used to sleep in the street before marrying him. Walter Morel too asked his wife, during a quarrel, to go out his house. He even added that it was he who brought the money home. I think that such male chauvinism is something to be avoided within the family circle. And yet, in spite of her husband's bad temper, the woman should have the courage to stay for her children's sake. The children are innocent victims who need their mother more than anybody else. Mrs. Morel understood this quite well and she expressed her feelings firmly: "No", she cried loudly... "you shan't do all you like. I've got those children to see to"<sup>23</sup>

Every woman should have the courage to react like Mrs. Morel and stay in her home near her husband

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<sup>23</sup>David Herbert LAWRENCE, *Sons and Lovers*, Great Britain, Penguin Books, 1979p. 42

and especially near her children, for even if she decides to go away with her children, on some occasions, the latter will be missing their father.

## CONCLUSION

The problem of life in a home is a multi-secular one. There are a lot of reasons such as social and religious background, economic conditions etc which undermine life in the core of home life. The clues to peace and harmony in a home are tolerance and mutual understanding, based on real love because when a woman lives in a home with her husband, she sees that her man is worth nothing and that her life is miserable. But when she is outside her home, she wants to be back home, near the husband. If she has never been married, i.e. if she is a spinster we can see through her behavior that she needs a man's fellowship. My opinion about love is, just like D.H. Lawrence himself expressed it:

“Love is a sweet and delicate feeling. To love, you have to learn to understand the other, more than he or she understands himself or herself and submits to his or her understanding of you. It is damnably difficult and painful, but it is the only thing which endures. Your most vital necessity in this life is that you should love your husband or your wife completely and implicitly and in entire nakedness of body and spirit. Then you will have peace and inner security, no matter how many things go wrong.”<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>ALIDINGTON, Richard, *Portrait of a Genius, the Life of D.H. Lawrence*, 1885-1930 L, 7 July, 1914, p.83.

Moreover it lies in the hands of each member of the house especially the father or the mother to turn the forest into a dwelling place because as Seydou BADIAN stresses “la langue et les dents sont appelées à cohabiter toute une vie se querellent”<sup>25</sup>.

On the whole, after all these considerations, I wonder who the devil was really, and who was the angel in the core of the family life. I have found out after analyzing the profound nature of each partner in a home, that both of them have their defects and qualities. Neither of them could be portrayed as a totally negative being or a perfect creature. But seeing women’s devilish attitude in the two novels, and the fact that they are a “bad need” we dare to conclude that woman is a devil in a home.

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<sup>25</sup> Seydou BADIAN, *Sous l’Orage suivi de la mort de Chaka, présence africaine*, 1973, p. 38.

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