ABSTRACT

Dysfunctional family is a term in psychology to describe a troubled family due to either internal or external problems. However, this term is vastly viewed only as a family which is on the verge of divorce. Physical and emotional abuses are also parts of the characteristics of dysfunctional family. While physical abuse is considered dangerous, emotional abuse is often left unnoticed. *Long Day’s Journey into Night* is an American play written by Eugene O’Neill in 20th century which is one of literary works which brings up the issue of dysfunctional family. It tells about Tyrone family in their summer house and their lives together as a family. By shaping the conflicts with emotional abuse existing in the family, this play challenges the hierarchy of physical vs. emotional binary in defining dysfunctional family. Using Derrida’s deconstruction, the construction of the play is revealed along with the ambivalences and inconsistencies in the play which make the construction of the view towards dysfunctional family unsteady. With further analysis interpretation, it is found that this unsteady construction results in the shifting of the position of both terms in defining family’s constant situation to become a phase in family life; that Tyrone family cannot be labeled neither as functional nor dysfunctional family. The theme the play intends to deliver, that dysfunctional family is an unhappy family is being deconstructed. The long day’s journey into night becomes not only about how a dysfunctional family meets their downfall, but how the family copes with any problem—because after night, sun will rise; that there is always hope even in the hardest time and situation.

**Keywords:** Dysfunctional family, Emotional Abuse, Functional family