

Analysis of the Narrative Structure of the short story, *The Necklace* through Bremond's Model of *The Logic of Narrative Possibilities*

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Keywords

- Elementary & Complex Sequences
- Micro and Macro Sequences
- Amelioration
- Degradation
- Potentiality/Objective Defined
- Process of Actualization
- Obstacle
- Objective Reached/Missed
- Good & Bad State.

Abstract

The present study is an attempt to investigate the narrative structure of the short story, *The Necklace* on the basis of Bremond's model, *The Logic of Narrative Possibilities*. The research has investigated the various functions of the elementary and complex sequences of *The Necklace* on the basis of this model and has explored that the main character fails to reach her objective because of her inability to take relevant action that is a *process of non-actualization*. The research uses interpretivist paradigm and narrative-structure analysis method to explore the various functions of Micro and Macro sequences of the short story, *The Necklace*. The study will be helpful for the students of literature who are interested in understanding and examining literary texts on the basis of the narrative model, *The Logic of Narrative Possibilities*.

1. Introduction

Like Propp, Claude Bremond also says that function is the basic unit of narrative. But Bremond replaces his 'functions' with 'role'. Through his model, "he tried to find universal rules that applied to something narrated in words or on film" (Susumu, 2010 p. 16). Bremond is of the opinion that a narrative structure is the combination of sequences and each sequence is the combination of three functions "grouping of three functions creates the elementary sequence" (Bremond & Cancalon, 1980, p. 387). Thus, each sequence contains three functions and stages: the first one 'possibility or

potentiality', the second is 'process' and the third is 'outcome' (Rimmon, S. 2005, p. 23). In each sequence, the character has to pass through the three phases for example, if he lacks something he will think about how to get it or a task should be accomplished. This is the *potentiality* stage, in which an objective is defined. Now the character will take a step to *actualize* or accomplish his task. This is a second phase or function, called as the *process*. Here, the character will take a step and will use different means to accomplish the task. He faces many dangers and obstacles but he may overcome and eliminate them or fail to eliminate obstacles. This is called as the *process of actualization*. If a character does not take a step to accomplish the task, this is the *non-actualization process* (Rimmon-Kenan, 2005, p. 24). So, the process is divided into two parts: the process of actualization and non-actualization. The process of actualization leads either to success or failure and the process of non-actualization leads to failure only. This is the third stage or function of a sequence. The outcome of the sequence or event will be successful for some characters and it will be a failure for others. Some may reach their objective and some may fail. So, the third stage contains two different elements *objective reached* and *objective missed* (Rimmon-Kenan, 2005, p. 23). Bremond and Cancalon (1980) discuss the three phases of a sequence in these words:

The first grouping of three functions creates the elementary sequence. This triad corresponds to the three obligatory phases of any process: a function which opens the process in the form of an act to be carried out or of an event which is foreseen [(1) Potentiality/ objective defined]; a function which achieves this virtuality in the form of an actual act or event [(2) Process of Actualization]; and a function which closes the process in the form of an attained result [(3) Objectives Reached or Missed] (p. 387).

"However, in ambiguous plot, it may not be impossible to classify state neatly into good and bad state" (Rimmon-Kenan, 2005, p. 25). Sometimes a person may act and achieve his objective but also loses something greater in the encounter (process), so it will also come under the category of a bad state. For example, in the second part of the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*, Santiago kills his opponent's sharks one by one "(which is his defined objective for the safety of his fish meat (Marlin))" but in his encounters, he also loses many tools and the meat of fish. So, the encounters don't help him, but in every encounter, he loses something new and comes across new problems or obstacles which are further challenges for him. Such a problem is given the sign (-v) by Ron in his application of Bremond's model to Oedipus Rex (cited in Rimmon-Kenan, 2005, p. 26-28). Sometimes, in the process of actualization of a new problem or when an obstacle is introduced: it also contains a new sequence and three more functions called as an *embedded sequence*.

Bremond is of the opinion that micro or elementary sequences combine together to form macro or complex sequences either of improvement or deterioration. "All sequences, at least all macro sequences are either of improvement or deterioration" (cited in Rimmon-Kenan, 2005, p. 25). He names this improvement process as the

process of amelioration and deterioration which in return is the process of degradation. An improvement sequence begins with the lack or disequilibrium and ends with restoration and equilibrium. In other words, it begins with a bad state and ends with good. On the other hand, the deteriorated state begins with an improved state and ends with a bad state. A narrative may contain one macro sequence or two and many more inverse sequences and states. "It can immediately be seen that narration can alternate phases of amelioration and degradation according to a continuous cycle" (Bremond & Cancalon, 1980, p. 390).

Bremond is of the opinion that the main cause of an action is *an obstacle* in a narrative. The character acts to eliminate obstacle which is a hurdle in his way of achieving his objective. If there is no obstacle, then a story will not be developed. So, in a narrative structure, an obstacle plays an important part. If a character eliminates the obstacles, he will reach towards his objective and if he fails to eliminate it, he will miss his objective.

The short story, *The Necklace* is a story of a poor, charming girl, Mathilde Loisel, the wife of a clerk at the ministry of public instruction. She wanted some social recognition. Along with her husband, she was invited to the party, hosted by the Minister of Public Instruction. She arranged a costly dress and borrowed a diamond necklace from her friend, Mme Forestier. Eager to attend the party, now she had a wonderful time at the party and looked the prettiest of all. Everyone at the party admired her. Upon returning home, she noticed that she has lost the necklace. She, along with her husband searched for the necklace but it was all in vain. For the replacement of the necklace, they spent their entire inheritance and took a loan (18000 francs) with a high interest rate to buy the necklace similar to the lost one. To pay off their debt to usurers, Mathilde and her husband struggled hard for ten years. After ten years, they paid the money back, but due to hard work and constant struggle, Mathilde lost her charm and became a prematurely aged and poor creature.

The short story *The Necklace* has been interpreted in different contexts. The present study is an attempt to investigate its narrative structure on the basis of Bremond's model *The Logic of Narrative Possibilities*. The research has used the interpretivist paradigm and analysed the short story *The Necklace* in terms of its narrative structure to investigate it on the basis of Bremond's model of *The Logical Narrative Possibilities*. The research will answer to the following questions:

1. Is this model applicable to the structure of this short story or not?
2. What is the contribution of this model?
3. Is there any wide difference between the investigation of the structure of Bremond's model and the traditional approach of the plot?

The objective of this research is to answer the questions above and to test the validity of this model and judge its contribution to the structure analysis of the story on the basis of functions.

2. Analysis

The plot of *The Necklace* is very much simple. It can be divided into two parts. The first part or macro sequence is from a bad state to a good and the second is from good to bad. The initial part of the short story, *The Necklace*, reflected the process of improvement as the main character of the story, Mathilde, wanted social recognition and reputation and she achieved her objective in a social-gathering at the palace of Minister of Public Instruction. It was the peak of her action. After that, the process of degradation starts. She wanted to maintain this status but failed to do so, as she was poor and her present status was a replica just like the necklace was. She could not improve her poor status as she was entangled in many obstacles. After the party, she lost the borrowed necklace. To replace it, she along with her husband, took money from people with high interests' rates. After ten years, they paid the money back. But due to hard work and constant struggle, Mathilde became old and weak. In the end, she came to know that the necklace was just a replica but her ten years of hard work could not be backed now. Now she has lost her beauty, charm and become a miserable person. On the other hand, her friend, Mme Forestier, from whom Mathilde has borrowed the necklace was still good-looking and had a charming figure.

In the beginning, Mathilde had no money but good health and physique and at the end, she lost them both. It showed her failure. Thus, the first macro sequence started from degradation to improvement and the second macro sequence started from improvement to degradation. Degradation---improvement----degradation. Each part is made of three mini or elementary functions which are related to each event. It will be discussed in detail.

Following Bremond's model step by step, this project will discuss first amelioration process and then, degradation. To obtain amelioration, Bremond gives the following process

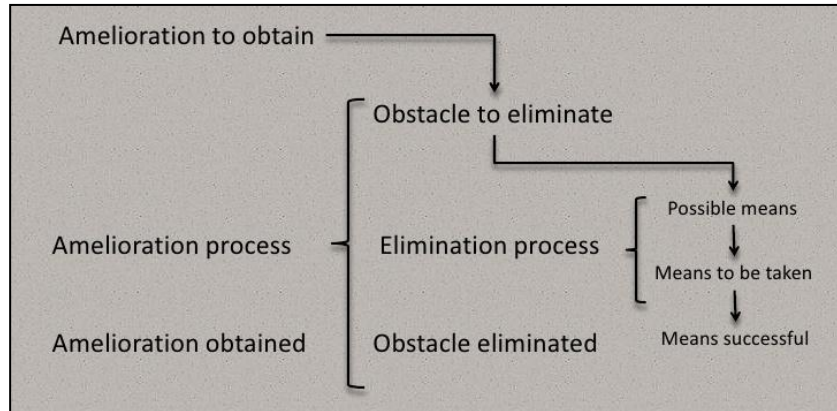


Figure 1: Logic of Narrative Possibilities (Bremond, 1980)

2.1. Process Of Amelioration

2.1.1. The Necklace from Degradation to Amelioration

Bremond (1980) is of the opinion that the amelioration process begins from a bad state and ends with the improved one. In this sequence, “beginning of a story which presents a deficiency affecting an individual or a group (in the form of poverty, illness, stupidity, lack of a male heir, chronic plague, desire for knowledge.....toward amelioration.” (p. 391).

The first macro sequence or part of the short story *The Necklace* also passes through these processes.

2.1.2. Bad state of Loisel family

The beginning of the story shows deficiency and lack in the form of the bad state of the protagonist Mathilde Loisel, the wife of the clerk. She is a pretty and charming girl but she has been married to a clerk (the most underpaid profession). The house of the clerk is shabby and unkempt. As the wife of a clerk, Mathilde has no dowry, no dress and no rank. She has no such expectations because she knows that being the wife of a clerk (the most underpaid profession), she will remain poor forever. Due to her poverty, “She suffered ceaselessly (...), she suffered from the poverty of her dwelling, from the wretched look of the wall, from the worn-out chairs, from the ugliness of the curtains” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 1). Everything in her house is worn out and shabby. On the one hand, “she has no dresses, no jewels and nothing” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 1) and on the other hand, due to poverty, she lives in obscurity. So, she longs for high social status and recognition.

2.1.3. Potentiality/ Objective Defined

As Mathilde lives in a bad state and obscurity, she wants some social recognition and wants to get rid of such a miserable life. The writer quickly defines her objective in these words: “she has no dresses, no jewels, nothing... she loved nothing; she felt mad for that. She would so have like to please, to be envied, to be charming, and to be sought after” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 1).

To attain her objective i.e. some social recognition, was not possible, as she was poor and even deprived of the very basic necessities of life. The writer quickly introduces another element that is a letter from the Ministry of Public Instruction, George Ramponneau, which requests Mr. and Mrs Loisel to attend the party at the palace of the ministry on Monday evening, January 18. The letter shows the *potentiality* that Mathilde or Mrs. Loisel can gain social recognition at the palace, where she may meet the people belonging to the high strata of society.

2.1.4. Process of actualization / Obstacle to eliminate

But to attend the ball and gain social recognition “*actualization*” is not possible for Mathilde, as she is poor and to attend the ball and socialize with the higher strata of the society she needs poise, bearing, ornaments and dresses like them. She must have fine clothes and some precious jewellery to attend the party, otherwise, it is not possible for her to attend it.

2.2. Obstacle 1

2.2.1. Dress

When the clerk gives a letter to his wife, instead of happiness, she weeps and flatly denies attending the party as she does not possess the means to attend the party. She tells him:

What do you want me to do with that? What do you want me to put on my back...nothing? Only I have no dress, and therefore I cannot go to this ball. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better equipped than I. (Maupassant, 1884, p. 2)

Here, the dress is introduced as an *obstacle 1*. The husband of Mathilde becomes pale when she tells him that to attend the party, she needs the dress worth four hundred francs. However, he has been keeping his money aside to buy a gun. He gives his savings to his wife for the new dress. So here, the *obstacle 1* is eliminated. Looking to the function of the ‘process of elimination’, there is also a mini embedded sequence in the *process of actualization*, like the need for the dress refers to the “objective defined”/ husband giving his money, refers to the “process of actualization” and making a dress refers to the “objective reached or outcome”.

2.3. Obstacle 2

2.3.1. Jewellery

To attend the extraordinary party in the palace of Minister, Mathilde needs precious jewellery as well to compliment with her costly dresses. As the party draws near, Mathilde becomes “sad, uneasy and anxious”. Once again, she denies attending the party as she has “not a single jewel, not a single stone, nothing to put on” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 2). When her husband suggests her to wear a natural flower, she replies “no: there is nothing more humiliating than to look poor among other women who are rich” (Maupassant, p. 2).

Her husband could not afford it but he suggests her to borrow jewellery from her friend Mme Forestier. So, here the *possible mean* is to borrow jewellery from Mme Forestier. Mathilde goes to her friend, Mme Forestier, tells her the problem and she gives her a large box to select jewellery. She selects a “superb necklace of diamond” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 3). Thus, the *obstacle 2* is eliminated successfully. Now, she can go to the ball for the process of actualization, easily. Eliminating obstacle 2 also contains one mini-sequence based on three functions. The Need for the jewellery is “objective defined”, Mathilde acting on her husband’s suggestion to take jewels from her friend is the “process of actualization” and getting necklace successfully can be taken as “objective reached”.

2.3.2. The Process of Actualization at the ball

As Mathilde wants social recognition and reputation, she, along with her husband, has successfully eliminated the two obstacles in her way to attend the party. Now, she attends the party with a great zeal and enthusiasm. Equipped with “elegant dress and ornament”, she surpasses the girls who belong to the elite class in the ball. Her poise, the intoxicated dance and bearing impress everyone at the social event, taking place at the palace of the Ministry. On the day of the ball:

Mine Loisel (Mathilde) made a great success. She was prettier than them all, elegant, gracious, smiling and crazy with joy. All men looked at her, asked her name, endeavoured to be introduced. All the attached of the Cabinet wanted to do waltz with her. She was remarked by the minister himself. (Maupassant, 1884, p. 3)

The performance and dance of Mathilde are unsurpassed, the result is that she is applauded and even the minister enquires after her. So, through her tremendous performance at the ball, Mathilde actualizes her desire for the social recognition and reputation and this process of actualization leads her to the success or *objective reached*, the third important function of macro sequence.

2.4. Objective Reached

Due to the successful process of actualization, Mathilde obtains “Amelioration” because she achieves her objective of getting social recognition. In the beginning, she is an obscure figure who wants “to be envied, to be charming, and to be sought after” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 1). To achieve these objectives, she takes practical steps to remove the obstacles and performs tremendously at the minister’s palace. Now everyone is desirous to speak to her and the minister of public instruction also admires her charming and fascinating poise, bearing and performance. Thus, she achieves her objective and becomes famous. In the language of Bremond’s model, she obtains “Amelioration” and says good bye to the earlier bad state or “Degradation”.

This macro sequence from the process of Degradation to Amelioration may be described through Bremond’s model in the following way:

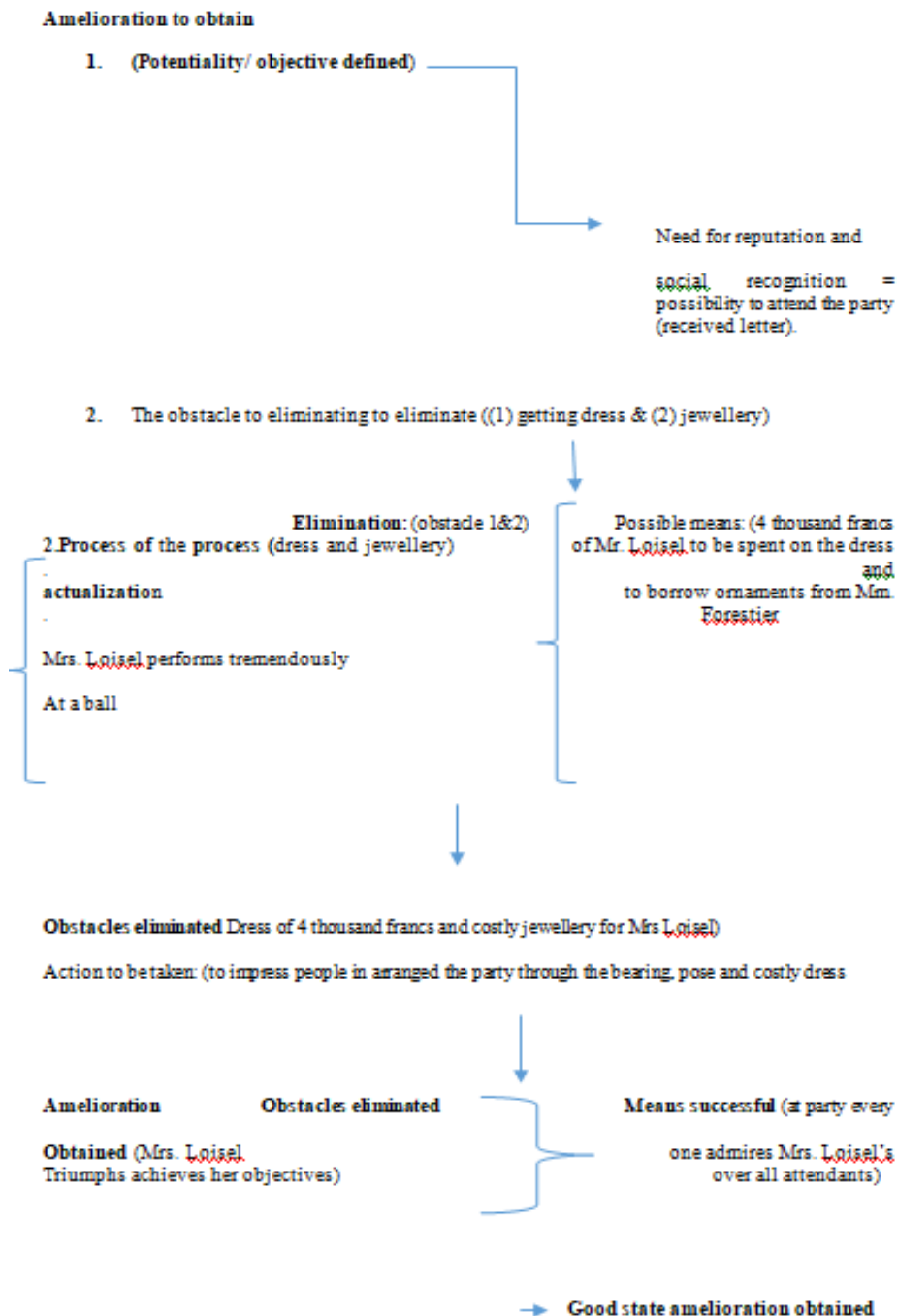


Figure 2: The narrative structure of Maupassant's *The Necklace* according to Bremond's Method (1980, p. 391) of Process of Amelioration.

2.5. The Process of Degradation

Bremond is of the opinion that amelioration process often brought to the conclusion but if a narrative does not end here and moves on, then the narrator must introduce tension and the new obstacles which will prove the source of degradation. "He must introduce new obstacles A degradation process is then, initiated" Bremond (1980, p. 400). During the degradation process, a series of misfortune will occur until the ruin of the protagonist. Often "Degradation process remains unspecific or explained only by the bad luck or by a combination of unfortunate circumstances" (Bremond, 1980, p. 400). The degradation process proceeds from good to the bad state.

2.5.1. Degradation process in *The Necklace* (from good to bad state).

The short story, *The Necklace* does not end with the triumph of Mathilde but the writer shows that her triumph at the party is temporary. Her triumph or success is as fake as the Necklace is and the strange thing is that she wants to maintain her fake status. She fails to maintain it. Due to the error of hiding her poverty from the people and maintaining the false show of her status, she along with her husband suffers for a long time and fails to get into the high strata of society. During party, Mathilde performs extraordinary. She achieves social recognition, people applaud and praise her.

2.5.2. Potentiality/ objective defined.

After the end of the party, her husband appears early in the morning and "throws over her shoulder the wraps which they had brought, modest wraps of common life, whose poverty contrasted with the elegance of the ball dress"(Maupassant, 1884, p. 3). Mathilde wants to maintain her status and intends to escape so that the other women do not judge her poverty from the wraps and remarked by them. So, her objective is to maintain her status and escape hurriedly to home. To maintain her status, she actually needs resources, not escaping. Poverty is the greatest obstacle in her way; she cannot resolve it but instead, she wants to hide it. So, her objective is to maintain her present status and escape hurriedly to home to hide her poor status.

2.6. The Process of Actualization

2.6.1. To avoid obstacle 1

Mathilde is afraid if the attendants will look at her wraps she will be disgraced. So, her poor status is *an obstacle* in her way of reputation. Therefore, she wants to escape home hurriedly to avoid the danger to be noticed by the people. She does not pay attention to the advice of a husband to wait a bit inside the hall so that he can arrange a cab for her, lest she should catch a cold. Shivering with cold, Mathilde and her husband walk towards their home. At last, they find on the quay one of those old dirty carriages which are only to be seen in Paris at night (Maupassant, 1884, p. 3).

At last, they reach their home in Rue des Martyrs. Thus, she achieves her half objective to reach home hurriedly but to maintain her happy status is not possible for her.

2.7. Outcome

There is a partial achievement of the objective as *obstacle or danger1* is avoided (people noticing her poor status is avoided) but it has given birth to another problem that is the loss of the necklace. As hardly, they reach their home when “she remove[d] the wrap which covered her shoulders, before the glass, so as once more to see herself in all her glory. But suddenly she uttered a cry. She had no longer the necklace around her neck!” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 4). Thus, due to her error to maintain her position and *quick process of actualization* (to go home hastily) has given birth to a new problem that is the loss of precious necklace (as it is considered). Thus, to avoid *obstacle 1* has given birth to another problem that is *obstacle 2*. Bremond’s model shows it with the sign of “-v-” where one obstacle is avoided but it gives rise to another obstacle (Cited in Rimmon-Kenan, S. 2005, pp. 26-28).

Now, they search the necklace but cannot find it. This sequence can also be described under three mini-functions. As the necklace has been lost so they decide to search its initial function of sequence called “objective defined”. Now they search it in the folds of cloths, pocket, the whole route which they have taken, with cab and the minister’s palace. Mr. Loisel went to the police office and headquarter to offer a reward to the person who will return it. But he “found nothing”. So, this is the second function, the *process of non-actualization*. As they cannot actualize (find the lost necklace), so they *Missed Objective* which is the third function of the elementary sequence.

2.7.1. Obstacle 3

The problem related to the loss of the necklace has not been solved. The owner will demand it back. They have to solve this problem to return the necklace back to the owner, Mrs. Loisel. They have to eliminate this problem. Now, the new objective is defined, related to the obstacle 3 that is mentioned in the text clearly when they point out, “we must consider how to replace that ornament” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 4).

2.7.1.1. The process of actualization / to avoid the obstacle 3

Now, they wander from jeweller to jeweller to find and buy the necklace, similar to the Mme Forestier’s. At last, they find a similar necklace in a shop at Palais Royal but its final price is thirty-six thousand francs. It is beyond their income. They have no means to buy it. Loisel has only 18000 francs which his father has left and the remaining 18000 has to be arranged from somewhere else. So, there is an embedded obstacle (a) in process of actualization of obstacle 3. However, Mr. Loisel deals with usurers, takes money from them with high-interest rate and buys the necklace and returns to Mme Forestier.

2.7.1.2. Objective reached and new problem

Mr. and Mrs. Loisel achieve their objective of returning the necklace to Mme Forestier. Thus, they eliminate the *obstacle 3* and embedded obstacle (a), but it gives birth to other problem that is how to return the borrowed money to usurers. That is *Obstacle 4*.

In the degradation process, “sometimes the beneficiary himself, if he commits an error which has serious consequences” (Bremond 1980, p. 400). Same is the case with recipient of the necklace Mathilde, due to her initial error to maintain her position and go hurriedly to home is a source of unending sequences of obstacles which lead to degradation.

2.7.2. Obstacle 4

As they have returned the necklace back to the owner and eliminated the *obstacle 3*. But it has given birth to another problem as they have taken money from people with very much humiliating terms and conditions that are charging high interest rates. Now they have to pay them back.

2.7.2.1. Objective defined

To eliminate this horrible obstacle, a new objective is introduced, that is: “that dreadful debt must be paid” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 5).

2.7.2.2. The process of Actualization or elimination of Obstacle 4

To pay the money back is not easy for the poor clerk Mr. Loisel. They have to take different measures and means to finish the debt. Therefore, “they dismissed their servants; they changed their lodgings; they rented garret under the roof.” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 5). Now, Mrs. Loisel’s position is reduced to a poor, hard-working creature. She becomes a beast of burden. She is working laboriously and doing house chores. “She washes dirty linen cloth and dishes “using her rosy nails on the greasy pots and pans” (Maupassant, 1884, p. 5). She carries the slops down and waters up with great difficulty. She dresses like common poor-people. She goes to the fruit vendor and grocer with her basket haggling, bargaining, facing insults, and fighting for a half-penny in order to save it and return to the usurers. To pay the money back, Mr. Loisel has to do two additional tasks of making a fair copy of a tradesman’s account in the evening and late at night, he copies manuscript for only five souses a page. After the ten-year-long struggle, they pay the money with “the accumulations of compound interest” (Maupassant p. 5).

2.7.2.3. Outcome: danger 4 is eliminated

They avoided *danger 4* and achieve the objective to eliminate debt. But during the process, they lose their former status and become miserable creatures. Mrs. Loisel loses her beauty and becomes rough, crude, old hag.

2.8. Non- actualization and degradation

Mr and Mrs. Loisel, after great difficulty, eliminate *obstacle 2-3* (replacement of the necklace and return it to owner) and *obstacle 4* (paying the debt), but they failed to eliminate *obstacle 1* that is their poverty. And it is *obstacle 1* which gives rise to other problems. The problem of poverty is rather intensified at the end. Mrs. Loisel desires of social recognition and she is ashamed of her poverty. Instead of solving the problem of poverty, she wants to hide it from the people to maintain her fake position. Hence, she fails to maintain her good state and eliminate the obstacle of poverty. When a step is not taken for solving some problem Bremond calls it *non-actualization* (Bremond 1975, p.75). And non-actualization leads to a bad state or *Degradation*.

2.8.1. Degradation

The end of the Necklace shows the degradation. Mrs. Loisel's success at the party is transformed into a complete failure. She cannot maintain her position because she is poor. Instead of solving this problem, she along with her husband is entangled in new problems. At the end of the story, she is a woman of impoverished households, hard and rough. She is no longer that charming girl who moved the people, including Minister of Public Instruction at a ball. Her initial objective "to be envied, to be charming, and to be sought after" (Maupassant, p. 1) is achieved just for a short period of time at the palace of minster but she fails to maintain her position due to her poverty and bad luck. Thus, the circle of Bremond's model is completed as the second Macro Sequence is started from function 1st amelioration ended with function 3rd degradation. The middle part of the second sequence is about the process of actualization where the characters are taking action for eliminating the obstacles. They cannot eliminate their poverty and achieve a goal; hence it is called the non- actualization, which is the second function of Bremond's model.

This macro sequence from the process of Degradation to Amelioration may be described through Bremond's model of the degradation process in the following way:

Good State: Mathilde gained social recognition

Potentiality/ Defined Objective: (1) Need to maintain her position, (2) Need financial resources

Embedded action: Obstacle 1: Mathilde's fear of her divulging Poverty from old wraps

Potentiality/ defined objective: Going early in darkness so that her poverty is not exposed

Action Taken/ elimination process or actualization: Hurried to home early in the morning

Outcome: objective reach –v- lost the necklace : She reaches home successfully but lost the necklace.

Danger or Obstacle no 2: Mathilde has lost Mm. Forestier Necklace

Objective defined: Intend to find the necklace and return it

Action taken or elimination process /failure: Mathilde and her husband search it but cannot find it

Outcome: Objective missed as they don't find the necklace

Danger or Obstacle no 3: They did not find the necklace now they have to provide same kind of necklace to the owner Mme Forestier

Objective defined: Mr. and Mrs. Loisel must replace the Necklace

Action taken or elimination process: They visit the jewellers to find the same kind of necklace

The Embedded Sequence of the obstacle

Obstacle: they need money

Objective defined: to borrow 18 thousand francs

The process of actualization: Take money with a high-interest rate

Outcome: They barrow eighteen thousand francs.

Purchase necklace and returns to Mme Forestier.

Outcome: they achieved the objective of returning the necklace –v-take

Money on high-interest rate

Danger or Obstacle no. 4: Mr. and Mrs. Loisel has borrowed money with a high-interest rate

Objective defined: The dreadful debt must be paid

Action taken or elimination process

Dismiss servants; change their lodgings; rent garret under the roof/Mrs Loisel works hard and Mr. Loisel is engaged in Two additional jobs and after 10 years they pay the debt.

But Mrs. Loisel loses her charm and financially they become weaker than they were

Outcome: eliminated obstacle 4 but financially and

Physically Mathilde becomes weak



Amelioration not obtained (In micro-sequences)

Non-Actualization of defined objective : Mathilde fails to improve her economic status

Degradation /failure: Mathilde misses her objective.
Amelioration is not obtained (In 3rd function of macro sequences)

The narrative structure of Maupassant's *The Necklace* by Ayaz Shah and Akhtar Aziz according to Bremond's Method of Process of Degradation (cited in (Rimmon-Kenan, S. 2005, p. 26-28).

3. Discussion and Conclusion

The structure of the short story *The Necklace* has been examined on the basis of Bremond's model of *The Logic Possibilities of Narrative*. The rigorous investigation shows that each mini or elementary sequence contains three functions which are related to each other in logical ways. The first function begins from the defined objective, the second works on it and the third shows the outcome. We may also find embedded sequences in the process of actualization as well which also contains three functions. In micro-sequences, the *outcome* or third function initiates the function first of the next triad. Hence, the chain of sequences is related to each other through functions. One sequence contains one event which is related to other. The mini or elementary sequences combine together to form the *macro or complex sequences* of the process of degradation and amelioration. It also contains three functions: 1. *Objective Defined*, 2.

Process (Actualization and Non-Actualization) and 3. *Outcome*. We may find function 1 objective defined or potentiality state both in the process of Amelioration and Degradation. The second function of degradation and amelioration process is different. In the *degradation process*, the characters don't take a step to eliminate the obstacle, this is *non- actualization of the objective*. And in the *amelioration process*, the characters try to eliminate the obstacle and take a step to actualize the objective. As in *The Necklace*, in the first part Mr. and Mrs Loisel, eliminate the obstacles and actualize the desire of Mathilde but in the second part they don't take steps for eliminating the poverty rather getting engaged in the different series of obstacles, when the one is eliminated, it leads to the second until the ruin of characters and failure of their main objective to attain the high social status as Mrs. Loisel desired earlier. In the process of actualization, if the obstacles are eliminated it leads to success, the setting of an objective and positive outcome like Mrs. Loisel's achievement in the party and eliminating of the obstacles in the first part of the story. On the other hand, non-actualization and failure to eliminate the obstacle is a source of *degradation*. Due to *non- actualization*, the character *misses objective* like Mrs. Loisel's failure to attain the high social status.

Whatever Bremond says about the structure of narrative is applicable to the short story, *The Necklace*. The model shows that each and every function is related to each other. There is a proper logic behind the beginning, process and outcome of each sequence. Same is the case with the short story, *The Necklace*.

After the successful investigation of Bremond's model to the narrative structure of *The Necklace*, we can say that Bremond's method can be applied effectively to the narrative of the short story. Bremond changes the traditional concept of plot structure and the division of plot into five sections like exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and catastrophe. We may find that some of these elements are missing in some stories. But Bremond's model introduces a new kind of concept based on the triadic functions of the structure. Bremond's method can effectively be applied to any kind of narrative e.g. tragic, comic and the mixture of both. The tragic plot ends with degradation, comic amelioration and amelioration for some character and degradation for some other in tragi-comic.

The traditional concept of the narrative structure just defines plot as the organization of events in time sequence and the relation of events is based on cause and effect but it does not convince us with solid arguments. On the other hand, Bremond's method tells us the triadic functions of micro and macro sequences in a most convincing way. These are the limited functions (only three) which are related to each other in a logical manner in a sequence and with consequences. Thus, Bremond's model revolutionized the traditional analysis of the structure and function of the plot. To Bremond, plot or structure of the story, is not something external like Aristotle's concept of the sketch

but it is the function of the character which makes and moves the story forward. When function stops, it will be the end of story or plot.

Bremond's model reveals that it is an obstacle in the way of character which prolongs the sequence of a narrative. If there is no obstacle then the sequence will be ended in no time. The role of the character is to eliminate obstacles. The process of elimination of one obstacle may initiate the other obstacle like the degradation process of *The Necklace* where one obstacle gives birth to second. Similarly, the non-elimination of an obstacle causes many more problems. If all obstacles are eliminated in a macro sequence successfully, it will be amelioration and if not, it will be degradation. In *The Necklace*, the only obstacle is a weak financial status of the family which brings many problems with itself and the *non-elimination* of obstacles, ends the story with the degradation.

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