

Exploring Relational Transgression and Its Consequences in J.M Coetzee'S Novel Disgrace

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Abstract. J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*'s relational transgression analysis is essential to comprehending literary analysis, ethical ramifications, society impact, and human behavior. People can learn more about the reasons behind such offenses, as well as the psychological and sociological elements that play a role by analyzing David Lurie's acts and the effects they have. This research aims to analyze the relation transgression committed by the character David Lurie in J.M. Coetzee's novel *Disgrace* and to delve deeper into why individuals engage in actions that breach social norms and how such actions impact individuals and society. Using a literary psychology approach through a descriptive qualitative research method, this study reveals the dominant characteristics of Lurie that trigger relation transgression. The whole research is conducted by means of descriptive qualitative research method using content analysis. The analysis results show that Lurie has a tendency to violate social norms, particularly concerning his sexual desires. His arrogance and reluctance to apologize exacerbate the situation and isolate him from his social environment. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the complexity of characters in literary works and the implications of violating relational bonds in individual lives. By referring to the theory of relational transgression, this research highlights how Lurie's actions not only impact himself but also those around him. Effective preventive and intervention techniques may be developed with the help of the examination of Lurie's relational transgression in *Disgrace*. Communities can be made safer, healthier, and more inclusive by educating people on the underlying causes and effects of such behavior. By understanding the root causes and consequences of relational transgression, it is hoped that more effective prevention and intervention strategies can be developed.

Keywords: *Apology; arrogance; relation transgression; sexual desire*

<https://ojs.unm.ac.id/eralingua>



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INTRODUCTION

Humans, since the dawn of civilization, have been recognized as social beings. The instinct to live in groups and form relationships with others is an integral part of human nature (Ascigil, Gunaydin, Selcuk, Sandstorm, & Aydin, 2023; Han & Bailenson, 2024). Complex societal life demands that each individual be able to interact, communicate, and build relationships with others. Strong relationships not only fulfill social needs but also play a significant role in individual development and societal well-being (Kuhlen and Rahman, 2023; Li, He, & Zhao, 2024). The dynamics of building and breaking relationships are not unique to the real world; they are also vividly portrayed in literature. This is because literature and society are interconnected, with literary narratives often serving as a reflection of our social realities. Literature provides an incredibly accurate mirror into the complexities of human connections (Shah, 2023; Altun, 2023; Washaly, Najeeb, 2019; Gabriel, 2020).

A literary work, in the form of a novel, is used to express criticism as well as longing and nostalgia for everything they left behind (Nasution, et al, 2023). Novel that predominantly discusses relational transgression is *Disgrace* by J.M. Coetzee. *Disgrace* is a thought-provoking and provocative novel that offers an in-depth portrayal of a white academic in post-apartheid South Africa. The novel chronicles the life of David Lurie, an English professor whose comfortable existence is shattered by a sexual scandal involving one of his students (Yadav, 2020; Pshenychna, 2023; Arya and Mane, 2023).

As a consequence of his actions, Lurie loses his job and his reputation is tarnished. He subsequently seeks refuge with his daughter, Lucy, who lives on a small farm in the countryside. There, David hopes to find solace and begins a new life. However, misfortune strikes again when he and Lucy become victims of a brutal attack. Through the character of David Lurie, Coetzee explores complex themes such as relational transgression, morality, identity, and racism. David is an intellectual who harbors a sense of superiority, but his actions reveal a darker side to his personality. He struggles to comprehend and accept the consequences of his deeds. Meanwhile, Lucy, as a representative of the younger generation of South Africa, demonstrates resilience and the ability to overcome trauma. *Disgrace* is not merely a narrative of an academic's downfall but also a profound exploration of relational transgressions in various forms. Through David Lurie, Coetzee exposes how certain actions and events can irrevocably damage human connections and shatter the foundations of trust (Weldegebriel, 2021). Coetzee, through Lurie's story, reveals the intricate and fragile nature of human relationships. Relational transgressions manifest in various forms, such as the inability to control sexual desires, arrogance, and reluctance to apologize. *Disgrace* invites readers to ponder the significance of mutual respect, open communication, self-control, and empathy in fostering healthy relationships.

This research, conducted entirely using a qualitative descriptive method and a literary psychology approach, further supported by the theory of relational transgressions, examines the novel *Disgrace* by J.M. Coetzee. The focus of this study is on relational transgressions, with three specific areas of analysis: inability to control sexual desire, arrogance, and reluctance to apologize.

A relational transgression is an act that violates the norms or agreements established within a relationship. Such actions can occur in various types of relationships, including romantic, familial, friendship, or even professional relationships. These transgressions often lead to deep emotional wounds, erode trust, and can ultimately destroy the relationship itself. Relational transgressions are actions that exceed the boundaries mutually agreed upon within a relationship. These boundaries can be explicit, such as spoken promises, or implicit, such as unspoken expectations inherent in the relationship dynamics. When these boundaries are violated, the balance and trust within the relationship are disrupted.

The research on relational transgressions in J.M. Coetzee's novel *Disgrace* offers a wide range of benefits, from a deeper understanding of human nature and social interactions to contributions to the advancement of knowledge and the arts. A profound comprehension of the root causes of relational transgressions can foster the development of a more just society and healthier relationships. Gaining a more sophisticated grasp of human nature is one of the main advantages of examining relationship violations in *Disgrace*. Everyone can examine the interaction between ethical considerations, society expectations, and personal desires by reading the story, which features characters battling difficult moral decisions. People can gain a better understanding of the complexity of human behavior and the variables influencing decisions by looking into the causes and effects of these infractions. Examining relational breaches in *Disgrace* provides important insights into how social connections function. The tale emphasizes how social norms and power disparities can encourage negative behavior. People can create ways to encourage better and more equal relationships by being aware of these aspects. Some of these efforts include battling negative preconceptions.

This study employs a literary psychology approach to delve into the characters' inner worlds, understanding their motivations and intentions, analyzing interpersonal relationships, connecting actions to social context, and identifying universal themes. In the novel *Disgrace*, the analysis seeks to uncover why David Lurie committed the sexual transgression, the motivations behind his actions, and the psychological impact of his deed. By adopting a literary psychology perspective, we can attempt to comprehend the motivations and intentions underlying the characters' actions. For instance, we can explore why David Lurie felt entitled to commit such an act and how he justified his actions in his mind. This approach also aids in understanding the dynamics of interpersonal relationships within the novel. Literary psychology allows us to connect the characters' actions to the broader social context. In *Disgrace*, we can examine how the history of apartheid and social change in South Africa influenced the characters' psychology and actions. Through the lens of literary psychology, we can identify universal themes explored in the novel, such as power, violence, trauma, and the search for meaning. Thus, literary psychology provides a powerful tool for comprehending the complexities of relational transgressions in *Disgrace* and for appreciating the novel on a deeper level (Lehmann & Brinkmann, 2020; Alosman & Raihanah, 2020; Rakhimovna, 2023; Dar, 2022).

Relational Transgression

A relational transgression is an act or behavior that damages, neglects, or even destroys relationships between individuals or groups. This can occur in various contexts, ranging from the most intimate interpersonal relationships, such as family and friendship, to broader social relationships, such as communities and societies. Relational transgressions often involve power imbalances, breaches of trust, or violations of prevailing social norms (Weninger and Williams, 2022).

Building strong relationships begins with a solid foundation: mutual understanding and knowledge. Some steps to build strong relationships include: effective and targeted communication, mutual respect, strong trust, providing support as a form of care, and dedicating time to relationships as a practical effort to strengthen bonds (Gogineni, Pumariega, Kallivayalil, Kallivayalil, Kastrup, & Rothe, 2023).

Building and maintaining healthy relationships is an essential life skill. However, not everyone is able to do so effectively. Many factors can influence a person's ability to build relationships, leading to relational transgressions that can damage relationships.

Relational transgressions often occur due to one or more of the above factors. When someone lacks the skills or ability to build healthy relationships, they may unintentionally or even intentionally engage in behaviors that harm others. Some reasons why relational transgressions occur include:

1. Lack of awareness: An individual may be unaware that their actions have caused harm to others.
2. Inability to control oneself: When emotions escalate, an individual may say or do things they do not intend.
3. Unmet needs: When an individual's emotional needs are unmet, they may seek to fulfill those needs in unhealthy ways, such as through manipulation or violence.
4. Unhealthy thought patterns: Negative or unrealistic thought patterns about relationships can lead an individual to engage in destructive relational behaviors (Goffman, 2009; Regmi, 2023; Meyer, 2023; Mnisi, 2022; Horwitz, 2019).

The inability to control sexual desires, arrogance, and a lack of awareness of the need to apologize are significant forms of relational transgressions with high consequences for the perpetrator. Such individuals may find themselves entangled in more serious problems that can ultimately have fatal consequences.

Inability to Control Sexual Desire

The inability to control sexual desires, often referred to as hypersexuality, is a complex condition involving obsessive thoughts and behaviors related to sex. This condition can significantly disrupt daily life, including interpersonal relationships, work, and mental health. Despite being a taboo subject, it is crucial to understand the root causes, impacts, and treatment options for hypersexuality (Dui & Knight, 2024; Lewczuk, Wizła, & Gola, 2023).

The causes of hypersexuality are multifaceted and often involve a combination of biological, psychological, and social factors. Some contributing factors include:

1. **Biological Factors:** Hormonal fluctuations, neurotransmitter imbalances, and certain medical conditions such as brain tumors can influence sexual drive.
2. **Psychological Factors:** Past traumas, specific personality disorders, and mental health conditions like bipolar disorder can trigger compulsive sexual behaviors.
3. **Social Factors:** Social pressures, permissive sexual environments, and excessive exposure to sexual content can contribute to the development of hypersexuality (Perrotta, 2023; Winer, 2024; Briken, 2020; Carvalho, Pedro, & Aleksandar, 2021).

Arrogance

Arrogance is an attitude characterized by self-importance, haughtiness, and a tendency to look down on others. Arrogant individuals often believe they are superior to others in terms of intelligence, social status, or achievements. They frequently exhibit a dismissive, disrespectful, and domineering demeanor, lacking empathy and struggling to accept criticism (Tanesini, 2023; Demirbilek, Keser, & Akpolat, 2022).

Arrogance is a detrimental attitude that can lead to a multitude of problems. By understanding the root causes and negative consequences of arrogance, we can strive to overcome this behavior in ourselves and those around us. Cultivating humility, empathy, and mutual respect is essential for fostering stronger relationships with others (Orunbon, Ibikunle, & Lawal, 2022).

Reluctance to Apologize

The unwillingness to apologize is a common phenomenon encountered in everyday life. This seemingly simple act often becomes a stumbling block in interpersonal relationships (Bippus & Young, 2019).

Several psychological factors underlie a person's reluctance to apologize, including:

1. **Ego:** An inflated ego makes it difficult for individuals to acknowledge their mistakes as they fear it will diminish their self-esteem. They perceive apologizing as a sign of weakness.
2. **Fear of losing face:** The fear of negative judgment from others also hinders apologies. Individuals worry about being perceived as weak or incompetent if they admit their mistakes.
3. **Inability to understand others' perspectives:** Individuals who struggle to understand the feelings of others will find it difficult to feel empathy and remorse for their actions (Cheung, Zhu, & Yu, 2020; Borinca, Falomir-Pichastor, Andrighetto, & Halabi, 2021).

Research on relational transgression has been the focus of numerous previous studies.

1. **Epitropaki, O., Radulovic, A. B., Ete, Z., Thomas, G., & Martin, R. (2020).** Leader-follower transgressions, relationship repair strategies and outcomes: A state-of-

the-science review and a way forward. *The Leadership Quarterly*, 31 (1). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.leaqua.2019.101376>.

Epitropaki et al.'s research delved into the dynamics of leader-follower relationships within organizations, particularly focusing on situations where these relationships are disrupted due to breaches of trust. The study primarily investigates the implications of such violations, strategies for relationship repair, and the impact of both violations and repair efforts. This research offers valuable insights into the intricacies of leader-follower dynamics and underscores the importance of maintaining healthy and productive relationships within organizations.

2. Theriault, D., & Mowatt, R. A. (2018). Both sides now: Transgression and oppression in African Americans' historical relationships with nature. *Leisure Sciences*, 42(1), 15–31. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2018.1448024>.

While not explicitly using the term "relational transgression", this research describes how the relationship between African Americans and nature has often been characterized by inequality and even harm. The centuries of oppression experienced by African Americans can be seen as a systematic and sustained relational transgression, not only with other humans but also with the natural world.

Manifestations of Relational Transgression can be observed in:

1. Power Dynamics: The colonial relationship between colonizer and colonized, exemplified by the relationship between white people and African Americans, is characterized by unequal power distributions.
2. Cultural Erasure: Colonial practices frequently involved the deliberate destruction of indigenous cultures. The spiritual connection of African Americans to nature is often denigrated and suppressed, constituting a violation of their cultural and spiritual identity.
3. Ecological Exploitation: Widespread deforestation and the overexploitation of natural resources have resulted in environmental degradation and ecological imbalance, adversely affecting communities, particularly those like African Americans, who rely on the natural world for survival.

Relational transgression can be conceptualized as infringements upon fundamental human rights, violations of human dignity, and disruptions of ecological equilibrium. Theriault and Mowatt's theoretical framework provides a valuable lens through which to examine how the novel "Disgrace" explores universal themes of power, oppression, and human relations within a particular historical and cultural context.

3. Maclaren, Kym. (2018). Intimacy as transgression and the problem of freedom. *Puncta: Journal of Critical Phenomology*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.31608/PJCP.v1i1.3>

The central concept of this research, intimacy as a form of transgression, offers a unique lens through which to examine unhealthy or harmful relationship dynamics. The study explores relational transgression through:

1. Boundary Violations: Intimacy that disregards personal boundaries can be considered a form of relational transgression. This can manifest in various ways, from unauthorized disclosure of personal information to unwanted physical contact.

2. **Betrayal of Trust:** When an intimate partner breaches trust, it constitutes a serious relational transgression that can damage emotional bonds and make reconciliation difficult.
3. **Power Imbalances:** Intimate relationships often involve unequal power dynamics, where one partner may have more control over decision-making or relationship rules.
4. **Social Norms:** Certain intimate behaviors, such as extramarital affairs or relationships with close relatives, may be considered transgressions of social norms or ethics.

Relational transgression can be understood as actions that infringe upon an individual's expectations, values, or emotional needs within an intimate relationship. Maclaren's framework provides a useful tool for analyzing how the novel "Disgrace" explores these themes of relational transgression in a broader context, enriching our understanding of the complex dynamics at play in intimate relationships, particularly when involving power, transgression, and social consequences

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This research employs a descriptive qualitative approach using content analysis. Descriptive qualitative research aims to provide a detailed account of a particular phenomenon, event, or social condition. The focus is on understanding research subjects' meanings, perceptions, and experiences, rather than simply generating numerical data. The data are collected from J.M. Coetzee's novel, "Disgrace," which was published in 2019 by Penguins, New York. The analysis focuses on identifying instances of relational transgression, specifically the inability to control sexual desire, arrogance, and reluctance to apologize.

Data Source and Data

The primary data are taken from the novel, and the secondary data are taken from various sources such as books, journal articles, and websites inclined to the research focus; the data are presented in the form of text showing the norm violations conducted by the protagonist, such as the inability to control sexual desires, arrogance, and reluctance to apologize.

Data Collection Procedure

The data are collected through multiple readings of the novel to identify instances of relational transgression, precisely the inability to control sexual desire, arrogance, and reluctance to apologize. These instances are coded and categorized.

Data Analysis Procedure

Content analysis is then used to analyze the data, with a particular focus on the identified themes. The coded data were analyzed using content analysis to identify patterns and themes related to relational transgression. The final stage is drawing conclusion ([Miles, Huberman and Saldana, 2014](#)).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Relational Transgression refers to covert transgressions within interpersonal relationships, involving actions that breach norms, expectations, or implicit agreements in close relationships such as friendships, romantic partnerships, or

family ties. These violations are not only prevalent in everyday life but are also explored in literary works as a subject of analysis and reflection. J.M. Coetzee's novel, "Disgrace," offers a profound exploration of moral and social degradation in post-apartheid South Africa. The novel vividly portrays various relational transgressions among the characters, reflecting broader societal issues. The consequences of these violations are far-reaching for the characters involved. David Lurie's transgressions, such as his inability to control sexual desire, arrogance, and reluctance to apologize, result in his social ostracism and professional ruin. This study focuses on these specific transgressions as exemplified by the central character, drawing on theories proposed by [Goffman \(2009\)](#), [Regmi \(2023\)](#)

Inability to Control Sexual Desire

Lurie's actions of engaging in a sexual relationship with his student constitute a grave breach of professional ethics and societal norms. These actions reveal his inability to control his sexual impulses, even in a context where he should have exercised sound judgment; he prioritizes his own sexual gratification over the potential harm inflicted upon the young woman ([Dui & Knight, 2024](#); [Lewczuk, Wizła, & Gola, 2023](#)). Sexual desire serves as the primary motivation for many of his actions.

“He is not a man who can do without women. He needs a woman to adore, a woman to desire.” ([Coetzee, 2019: 18](#)).

There is a fundamental dependency on companionship with women. The character requires women for emotional and physical fulfillment, indicating a potential void in his self-sufficiency. The emphasis on 'adoration' and 'desire' suggests an objectifying perspective, reducing women to objects of worship and lust

“He knows that he is using her, but he cannot help himself. He is captivated by her youth and beauty.” ... “He has always had a weakness for women, a weakness that has led him to many indiscretions.” ([Coetzee, 2019: 78](#))

This paradoxical declaration exposes a person divided between willful impulses and conscious awareness. Despite being aware that what he is doing is exploitative, he cannot help but be drawn in by the woman's youthful attractiveness. This internal struggle exposes a deeper psychological issue.

“He feels no remorse for his actions, only a sense of satisfaction that he has acted on his desires.” ([Coetzee, 2019: 9](#))

This quotation emphasizes his callous disdain for the psychological effects of his actions. The character enjoys gratifying his impulses and does not care about the suffering or damage he can cause to other people. In addition to objectifying them and becoming dependent on them, Lurie also knows that he is abusing them but doesn't feel any real regret. His acts display a complex and troublesome mentality, motivated by both desire and a sense of entitlement.

The aforementioned quotations collectively present David Lurie as an individual consumed by an obsessive desire for sexual gratification. His inability to

restrain his libidinal urges, particularly when confronted with women, is a recurring theme throughout the narrative.

"I'm going to invite you to do something reckless.' He touches her again. 'Stay. Spend the night with me.'" (David, 2019: 8)

Returning home one Friday evening, he takes a circuitous route through the old university grounds; he notices one of his students walking ahead of him. Her name is Melanie Isaacs, from his Romantics course; not the brightest but not the dullest either. Lurie is immediately drawn to Melanie Isaacs' alluring appearance and subsequently invites her out. Their first meeting involves dinner and extended conversation. During their second encounter, they lunch at Lurie's apartment, where he initiates a sexual liaison. Melanie exhibits a degree of passivity but does not resist. Lurie feels no genuine affection for Melanie; he is merely obsessed with her physical attractiveness and his thoughts are consumed by the prospect of intimacy.

"Melanie was absent on the next day in the class, while at the same time, that was her examination. Lurie felt lost of her absence... on Sunday, Melanie came to Lurie's apartment... and it was the joyous time for Lurie...He folded the bedclothes aside, reaches down, stroke her breasts, her buttocks." (David, 2019: 12).

The following day, Melanie is absent from class. Her absence is unfortunate, as it is the day of the midterm exam. She is not the top student in her class but is not particularly poor either. On Sunday, the doorbell rings. It is Melanie, dressed entirely in black, with a small black woolen hat. Her face is tense; she is bracing herself against anger. *"May I sleep here tonight?"* she whispers to David. *"Of course, of course,"* David replies. Relief washes over him. He embraces her, pressing her against him stiffly and coldly. *"Come, I'll make you some tea."* After a while, Melanie sits on the bed and sobs uncontrollably in David's arms. The sheets fall away; he is only in a singlet and underwear, and they make love. Initially, David is aware that his sexual relationship with his student is wrong, but he is indifferent. He knows that Melanie is "nothing more than a child" but that his "heart is full of desire." He seeks justification, claiming that "a woman's beauty is not her own; she has a duty to share it." His pursuit of Melanie is predatory. Lurie disregards every indication of Melanie's refusal.

Arrogance

Arrogance is an attitude that exhibits excessive self-confidence and belittles others. Arrogant individuals tend to feel superior to others and often display indifference or even contempt for the opinions and feelings of others. This attitude can be manifested through actions, speech, or mannerisms that convey a sense of superiority (Orunbon, Ibikunle, & Lawal, 2022; Tanesini, 2023; Demirbilek, Keser, & Akpolat, 2022). An arrogance man will not act responsible. Responsibility is doing all the obligations seriously and ready to take all risks for one's own actions. Everyone has essentially been given responsibility, which has become part of human life (Suhadi, et al, 2023). The actions and utterances of David Lurie exemplify this arrogant demeanor

"He had always prided himself on his intellectual independence, his refusal to conform to the expectations of society." (Coetzee, 2019: 56).

Professor of English literature at a university, David Lurie, is the multifaceted and morally ambiguous protagonist in J.M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*. His self-evaluation, which summarizes his evident intellectual arrogance, reads, *"He had always prided himself on his intellectual independence, his refusal to conform to the expectations of society."* This is one of Lurie's most defining character traits. Lurie's conceit and contempt for social conventions are highlighted by this comment.

This contradicting statement highlights a psychological struggle that is deeply ingrained in the character; Lurie is aware of the exploitative nature of his actions but is unable to resist the attraction of the woman's youth and beauty. Lurie is torn between conscious awareness and uncontrollable impulses.

Respect? You are out of date, Mr Isaacs. Your daughter lost respect for me weeks ago, and with good reason. (Coetzee, 2019: 74).

This quotation is delivered by David Lurie to Melanie's father when the father discovers their relationship; however, it is unfortunate that Lurie's manner of speaking is imbued with an arrogant tone, revealing a blatant disregard for Melanie's parents. Lurie's impetuous behavior and inflated sense of self lead the university to terminate his position as a lecturer. Lurie fails to be forthright and honest about his relationship with Melanie. Ultimately, their romantic involvement deteriorates into animosity. The committee demands that Lurie issues a public apology, but he is reluctant to admit his wrongdoing. When confronted by the university committee, David is also unwilling to cooperate in order to salvage his professional career. While admitting guilt for the accusations, David Lurie maintains his refusal to apologize.

Reluctance to Apologize

Apologies constitute a crucial aspect of fostering and maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships. However, not everyone is capable or willing to apologize when they make a mistake. The reluctance to apologize often reflects a complex interplay of psychological, emotional, and social factors. A primary reason for this unwillingness is excessive pride or ego. Such individuals frequently perceive apologizing as a demeaning act that acknowledges their shortcomings. They may believe that apologizing will make them appear weak or incompetent, leading them to prefer silence over admitting their errors (Cheung, Zhu, & Yu, 2020; Borinca, Falomir-Pichastor, Andrighetto, & Halabi, 2021).

Arrogance and a reluctance to apologize are closely intertwined, mutually reinforcing one another. Lurie, the central character in the novel, embodies an arrogant demeanor, and it is unsurprising that this arrogance is accompanied by reluctance to apologize

'True enough. I was having an affair with the girl and that's my right. She was willingly having affairs with me and I never force her to come to me; all is bright... (Coetzee, 2019: 93).

In this quotation, Lurie exhibits no remorse for his actions, and instead, the university committee suggests that he take a leave of absence in exchange for the university persuading the girl or her family to drop the charges. The best hope at the time is to minimize the damage and wait for the scandal to subside. This highlights Lurie's arrogance; when confronted by campus media following the university hearing, he declares that he has no regrets and that he has been 'enriched by the experience.' He insists that he has done nothing wrong and would not apologize to anyone.

Why? What do I need to reflect on? Calls the subtle mockery from my tone? Shed tears of contrition? What will be enough to save me? (David 2019:98)

The preceding dialogue reveals Lurie's staunch refusal to compromise his dignity by admitting fault or guilt for the accusations leveled against him. To him, acknowledging errors and issuing an apology is a degrading act. His peers advise him to apologize to both the university and Melanie's family, suggesting that such a gesture might persuade the university to reconsider his position as a lecturer; however, he remains steadfastly resistant.

Research Implication

The results of this qualitative study on relational transgression in J.M. Coetzee's "Disgrace" offer a strong basis for further research and analysis. Future research may explore particular facets of relational transgression, such as how age, gender, and socioeconomic status influence these actions. Furthermore, empirical research or comparison analyses with other literary works may provide insightful information about the cultural specificity or universality of relational transgressions. Examining the long-term effects of relationship breaches is one possible topic for future study. Although this study focused on the immediate consequences of these actions, it would be helpful to examine the long-term repercussions they may have on people and relationships.

Important insights into the psychological and social elements that influence these behaviors are also provided by the research. People and societies can attempt to promote healthy relationships and avert negative outcomes by knowing the fundamental causes of relational transgression. These results can be expanded upon in future studies to provide a more thorough knowledge of relational transgression and its consequences.

CONCLUSION

J.M. Coetzee's novel, *Disgrace*, provides an in-depth exploration of relational transgression, centering on the character of David Lurie. Through a thorough analysis of Lurie's actions and attitudes, this study reveals significant findings that illuminate the complexities of his controversial character. One primary finding is Lurie's inability to control his sexual desires. Numerous incidents within the novel, such as his affair with a student, underscore the pervasive influence of his sexual drives on his actions. This research also identifies arrogance as a defining characteristic of Lurie. His excessive sense of superiority is evident in his interactions with others, particularly those he perceives as intellectually inferior. A final

intriguing finding is Lurie's reluctance to apologize. Despite causing significant distress to others and himself, Lurie struggles to acknowledge his wrongdoing and seek forgiveness. His defensive posture and refusal to take responsibility for his actions further solidify his image as a self-centered and insensitive individual. Overall, the character of David Lurie in *Disgrace* represents an individual trapped in internal and moral conflicts. His inability to control his desires, arrogance, and reluctance to apologize are the primary factors contributing to the relational transgression in his life.

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