Partition Trauma: Comparative Study Of Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice Candy Man And Khushwant Singh's Train To Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This research concentrates for the most part centered on two books which are Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice Candy Man and Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan. The study finds that the major symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder in the form of intrusion and constriction are observed in the characters of Ayah, Lenny, Ice-candy-man, Juggut Singh, Nooran, Hukum Chand and Haseena of both the novels. The same symptoms are perceived through the dialogues and actions of the characters mentioned above as well as the events presented in the novel. The Indian subcontinent partition, resulting in the form of Pakistan and India which is the marvelous and the most noteworthy occasion in the history of mankind's worst experiences. It is the demonstration of brutal massacre of Muslims and Sikhs in trains and the annihilation of people in the villages as well as rivers are the best illustrations to prove the incredible agonies and aches of the people of subcontinent. This study is an effort to develop argument and interpretation of the consequences of partition made by two well-known contemporary writers who themselves personally observed the event and managed to display a better view in terms of their interpretations through their writings. The methodology is textual analysis and close

reading along with the techniques of narration and the evaluation of settings used by the both writers.

Keywords: partition trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, intrusion and constriction, brutal massacre of Muslims and Sikhs, traumatic hysteria progresses.

INTRODUCTION

Trauma theory emerged in 20th century as it is an age of traumas; it faced series of wars, conflicts, revolutions, partitions, confusion, and competiveness so people faced dramatically so many traumatic experiences in this century. Literature is considered as a reflection of life so almost all these traumatic experiences of 20th century are reflected in the work of art of that century. The term trauma first appeared in Cathy Caruth's work Unclaimed Experiences: Trauma Narrative & History. Traumatic experiences always affect mind so we can say that this theory has some psychological connections too. Traumatic theory as we have explained that it emerged in 20th century but its themes can be found in all ages, we can find it through the literature before 20th century. Judith Lewis Herman's Trauma and Recovery was the best book of trauma that first published in 1992 and then in 2015 with new epilogue by the author. The latter book of Judith Lewis Herman is our theoretical framework which explains the techniques of intrusion and constriction both are the components of post-traumatic stress disorder. Intrusion reflects the permanent impression of traumatic moment while constriction exhibits the numbing response of surrender. Judith Herman is a psychiatrist who teaches trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder. She has also developed the complex posttraumatic stress disorder. We are going to explore the two main features of Judith Lewis Herman's psychiatrist in the text of Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice candy Man and Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan.

Bapsi Sidhwa's Ice Candy Man and Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan both novels help to demonstrate the violent incidents of partition and its effects of indispensable sufferings on the main characters. Both novels are also interesting novels to trace the features of

intrusion and constriction of Judith Herman's psychiatric theory. This research focuses on the perspectives of pain, sexual abuse and bloodshed presented by Pakistani and Indian writers of subcontinent on the event of partition.

Significance & Rationale of the Study

The partition trauma of this research is not for the sake of art only but it will highlight the background of the text. The research work will point out the new dimension with different framework which has hardly been implied in this text yet. The analysis of two different texts using Judith Herman's idea of intrusion and constriction of psychiatric theory on major characters with different settings will be a good methodology of this research.

Literature Review

According to scholar women body was symbolic in a sense that it made a level of women into just a mere body and by disgracing women by different men of different communities indicate that they wanted to remove the species of women from this world considering them barren and fruitless and they had no rights to live among them. (Rasool & Hussain, 2021)

Sidhwa questions the fraud of individuals who celebrated the picture of the Indian lady and love them as goddesses, yet at the hour of disturbance a similar picture is filthy for vengeance. The pack of cut off bosoms is changed into a public type of correspondence, a confirmation of patriot power. With the appearance of the train, excited Dilnawaz becomes murderous individuals of the fighting local area. This is the point at which Ayah's enduring starts. Dilnawaz (the Ice Candy Man) driving the Muslim horde assaults Godmother's home looking for the Hindus. Ayah is then assaulted barbarously, whipped and discarded among the whorehouses of Heeramandi and is subsequently compelled to wed Ice-candy-man who renames her as Mumtaz. This occasion of reaming the Ayah feature the way that a lady has no directly over her character, her feeling of personality is related with her better half. This scene of Ice-Candy-Man and Ayah annihilates Lenny's originations about adoration. She was stunned to see Ice-Candy-Man driving his significant other Ayah into the matter of prostitution. The site of ladies being assaulted during the uproars freezes her. She watches men transforming into monsters; they were announcing prevalence over one another by physically attacking ladies. Assault is the best brutality since it suggests that a lady has no rights on her own body and it very well may be utilized by anybody to meet their end. (Sathya, 2020)

Sidhwa is the only woman writer of Pakistan in particular and the writer for subcontinent in general who uses such a blunt language, before her no one dare to demonstrate the courage in this style. In Pakistan especially it is very difficult to use such language and adopt such style but she does not feel shy to explain their characters and to use her language openly. She becomes the voice of woman and she makes the people aware that woman are no more inferior to men and they can serve exactly the way man do. She also demands to eliminate the discrimination against women set by men. She wishes to be regarded, respected and considered equal to men in every respect because the society cannot survive without them (Khan, Ahmad & Khan, 2019)

The trauma is explained through the violence of partition and its effect on different individuals, the village is full of multi-religious population included Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs as its villagers, they live peacefully and how they change their behavior when a train arrives with dead bodies of Sikhs in Mano Majra. The effect of that incident change the whole situation of the village and its impact can be observed through every character with the help of their personal experience. The outcome of brutal incident makes Juggat Singh react positive and he always looks busy in saving his love and the Muslim community and plays active role while Igbal looks passive and tries to save himself when the situation becomes worse. The other major characters like Hukam Chand and Nooran also look affected when Hukam Chand loses Haseena as all Muslims had to go to camps and Nooran does not want to lose Juggat Singh for two reasons; one he is her lover and second she is going to be mother of his children.

Novelty and Research Gap

Previously, partition trauma has been shown differently, some articles provide details of communal violence and some display portrayal of partition while some highlight writer's personal mental illness through the characters of its short stories but none of them highlight particularly the psychiatric theory and the techniques of intrusion and constriction of psychiatric theory. So, this research will focus on this gap that needs to be analyzed through this research.

Discussion

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder analyzes the trauma after the occurrence of severe incident or accident in the life of an individual. Partition trauma effects the characters due to partition and brings changes in the lives of characters. We will here analyze and explore the partition trauma in the principal characters of both the texts. In Ice-candy-man Ayah is one of the main character of the story, she is living happily and enjoying her life along with multi-cultural friends. She goes outside, explore new places and people and fulfils all her desires. In short, she is free from all tensions, worries and not answerable to anyone. So she is living happily before partition but when partition takes place and riots have started, communal violence has raised to the sky high. She is kidnapped and becomes prisoner in the jail of her lover. It is Ice-candy-man who kidnaps her by the help of some Muslims in the form of gang who are also wandering in search of Hindus and Sikhs in order to kill them as a revenge. She is taken to Heera Mandi, the area belongs to prostitutes and kept there as per desire of Ice-candy-man who is really clever. Ayah becomes the victim of partition because before partition everything was smooth and under her control, Ice-candy-man was her lover but right after partition everything has changed, she is kidnapped forcefully and her friend has become her kidnapper. Moreover, she has to lose her religion as she is forcefully converted to Islam and Mumtaz is new name given to her. She also has to lose her friends and those who are associated with her due to partition like the most loved one of her masseur was killed during partition, Hari the gardener and Hindu like her has to change his religion because of the

fear of the people who were killing to Hindus. He turns himself to muslim and becomes Himat Khan, he even has to circumcise his private part. The sweeper the colleague of Ayah in Sethi's house has to turn himself in Christian as well, he becomes David after changing his religion. Ice candy man who loves her and does anything for her sake is also a changed man now she also has to lose her good friend due to partition. So Ayah's character shows effects of partition not only in her but also on the people who have been associated with her.

The other character which reflects trauma after partition is the character of Ice-candy-man himself who has changed now, he is no more friendlier to his friends by whom he used to give statements and oaths to be remain united in any situation. Before partition he was very famous and admired by people because of his wit. He knew the art to convince the people and used to do different tricks in order to entertain the people. Ayah starts liking him because of his wit and the art of convincing people. There are two people among Ayah's suitors who are admired by Ayah the most. Masseur and Ice-candy-man and he is well aware of that. He always looks to inspire her. Suddenly it happens a dramatic change in his life when he receives the pieces of his family in a train which has arrived from Gurdaspur. He receives two bags full of women breasts along with some corpses of old women. He has to lose his sister and mother. This mental shock and dreadful incident help bringing a lot of changes in his life he is not the same man now. He thinks to take a revenge of his family exactly as the same way as they were murdered. When Shaalmi was burning and Ayah was very upset due to the worst situation of the city, he was very happy at that time and he was telling Ayah to enjoy the scene of burning Shaalmi till its completion. He also kidnaps Ayah with a group of Muslim and takes her to prostitute's area forcefully. He still loves her but this time he is not in a mood to convince her but he is taking her now authoritatively. We also observe that Masseur is murdered and his dead body is found in a large bag. It was not told clearly that who exactly kills him in the text but by the action of Ice-candy-man and being his strong rival, it looks as if he was the murderer of Masseur as well. So observing the Icecandy-man's action we can say that it was his trauma that makes him change and he does not care about the world and does whatever he thinks to be right for him.

Lenny from Ice-candy-man is the narrator as well as the main character of the novel. She becomes the direct victim of partition trauma. From the beginning to the abduction of Ayah, we observe that Lenny is seen with Ayah, wherever Ayah goes she is there with her. The most phases of life Lenny learns with the company of Ayah. She is curious and wants to learn and observe the things happening around like Ayah. She even notices that why Ayah is admired by everyone and what type of relation everyone wants with Ayah. So Ayah has helped her in growing her mental and well as sexual growth. Lenny cannot even think to be separated from Ayah as Ayah is everything for her, she is her mother, friend, aunt, and nurse. But when Ayah is abducted, Lenny's trauma starts right after this. She becomes traumatic for two reason, first because of Ayah's abduction and the second she feels herself responsible for Ayah's kidnapping because the secret of Ayah's hide is revealed by her innocently. Ice candy man asks her about Ayah. She tells him Ayah's exact position considering Ice candy man the true lover of her but actually he does not come there with this intention., he is asking about Ayah in order to kidnap her because he has changed now he wants to take revenge of her mother and sister who were brutally murdered by the Hindus. Lenny also loses not Ayah but the other friends who are associated with her just because of Ayah. So she misses everything in this respect.

Hamida is also a female character of the novel Ice-candy-man who receives trauma after partition she also replaces Ayah after her abduction. Hamida is good woman. She also takes care Lenny very much like Ayah. She also suffers due to partition as Sikh rapes her and she is not accepted by her own family though she has her own children. She is sent to refugee camp where all the victim women of partition violence are kept. These are called fallen women. When she is taken there she is criticized by others in camp they criticize her commenting that a good woman should protect her honor, pride and respect instead of her life. So according to them she should have sacrificed her life

in order to save her respect. She was living her life peacefully but partition directly affects her life and she has to lose her family.

Juggut Singh the protagonist of Train to Pakistan also demonstrates the trauma of partition as he has to lose her lover whom he loves the most. Her name was Nooran and she was the daughter of Mullah Imam Baksh. Juggut Singh was a dacoit in the beginning of the novel but it was Nooran's love that makes him good man. Nooran has to migrate from the village of Mano Majra. The government and the elders of the village decide to send Muslims of that village to a refugee camp in order to avoid the inappropriate situation due to partition. So Nooran being Muslim has to depart from the village. Juggut Singh was in a jail when this incident takes place, when he comes out from the jail and finds unavailability of her lover. He gets dejected. Meanwhile, he perceives that all the people of his community are planning to kill the people who are departed from the village and are going to Pakistan through train, her lover Nooran is also among them. So he plans to save them all. The Sikhs plan to fix the rope in the place of train and in this way Muslims will be harmed and killed but Juggut Singh ruins their plan and saves the Muslims community by unfixing the rope before the arrival of the train. When he does that act he is killed by one of his own people. He falls under the train and train passes. So Juggut Singh's trauma comes because of the partition and that partition takes his lover away from his life.

Hukum Chand's trauma can be observed through the incidents he comes across with in numerous times. He loses his daughter and family and remembers them. After that he loses his aunt in a mystical way. His aunt in the process of child birth gets died and her death appears in a supernatural way. At the time of her death her body was shivering with fear and she was constantly staring the wall and waving her hands as if she was noticing someone supernatural close to her. He loses his friend who was retired from Army and was known best warrior as he won medals due to his bravery. Once his friend was traveling with his family he had three children during traveling. Their train had to stop before station because the killers were waiting the train

desperately. They stayed in the train for four days without eating and drinking when his children demanded water he had to give them his urine. When they felt more thirst he had to shot them all along with his wife. Another occasion the daughter of his friend Sundari was traveling in a bus with her husband she was newly married and was dreaming about her wedding night. Suddenly their bus was stopped by the crowd. They started to cut the private part of the males and their part were gifted to their females and females were raped same happened with Sundari. She not only had to lose his husband but also her virginity. Hukum Chand at the age of fifty feels really loneliness and says if she would with me I would not care of the world. She thinks about Haseena who is gifted to her by his junior officers for his entertainment. Haseena also Muslim and she also has to leave Mano Majra like other Muslims so her separation makes him thinking in this way. So partition trauma can be vividly seen in the character of Hukum Chand.

Nooran also becomes the victim of partition. When it is decided by the government that every Muslim has to leave from Mano Majra to refugee camp and after that they will be migrated to Pakistan. So Nooran being muslim has to leave the village though she tries her best to remain there, first she argues with her father that how can we leave this place where we are living from our childhood and our ancestors have been living there but when her father replies that if we do not go we will be thrown out. Then she moves to Juggut Singh's house where she meets his mother and tries to convince her to accept her as her son's wife because she is carrying her baby but all in vain because her request is neither accepted by her father and nor by her lover's mother. So when she thinks that there is no hope she gives up and leaves village with her father to Pakistan. Nooran makes Juggut Singh's a good person. Before falling in love with Nooran, Juggut Singh used to do robberies as it was a bread and butter of his forefathers. They also used to do it. But Nooran turns him into good man. Nooran unfortunately could not manage to live with him because of her migration from Mano Majra and partition becomes the cause of her suffering. So in this way trauma of partition is observed in her character.

The whole village of mano majra is presented as a character which also suffer due to partition, the people of the village are living here in centuries as if they were in blood relations. They enjoy of their every moment in mano majra as they have the facility of train there. There is a mosque for Hindus, gurdwara for Sikhs and the building of Lala Ram is considered as the temple for Hindus. A few Hindus are living in Mano Majra. The imam of masjid is respected by the other community members and he is called chacha by the villagers. Meet Singh is also respected and given weightage. Lala Ram being a Hindu representative and the richest man of the village is admired by the villagers. So every man from every community is respected by the villagers that shows that this village is save from the ethnic, religious and political differences. Moreover, the unity and love of the villagers can also be observed by the inter-cultural relationships of the people in the form of love relation between Juggut Singh and Nooran. Juggat Singh is Sikh while Nooran is Muslim. Before partition the village is considered the symbol of peace and love. But their relations turn to enmity in a few days the relation they have built in decades gets end in few days. The people who cannot live without their companions do not want to see them. The train which is considered to bring prosperity in the village in the form of goods and different people from outside the village become the symbol of terror and fear when it takes the corpses of Sikhs in a very bad condition. The people suddenly gets frightened and alert by the future situation. They start thinking the Muslims are no more safe for them. They think that if they remain here in Mano Majra that will not be the justice for the people who have lost their lives. So they decide to displace them from Mano Majra. When Lambardar requests Imam Baksh to leave the village as soon as possible. Imam Baksh says that how difficult to pack the luggage and leave the place in a span of just one night by which our elders have spent centuries to get. Nooran the lover of Juggut Singh also does not want to leave the village as her lover is here and she is going to be the mother of the child of her lover. She is threatened to leave the place by her father and informs that she is thrown out by the Sikhs if she does not leave herself from the village. So the village turns into worst from prosper after partition.

Judith Herman's idea of Intrusion and Constriction can be observed in the principal characters of Ice candy man and Train to Pakistan. We will analyze the major characters of Ice-candy-man first. Lenny who is the protagonist and mouthpiece of the writer at the same time. Bapsi is the first partition writer who detects the partition event through a child observer and child cannot tell a lie. Lenny is a child narrator and the characteristics of the best narrator are that he or she should be impartial. She is innocent child. Children are the best politicians. They don't care of anything, they just tell what is fit to be told. Lenny is curious, she thinks that world is very interesting and she must be exploring the world as much as possible. She wants to know, who are the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, English and other people around her, how they behave, how they live and how they celebrate their events. She wants to know that why they are fighting with each other such violently that fires, destruction, bloodshed, rape and the abduction of women and children killing is happening. She wants to know about the sensation what Ayah feels at the time of her meeting with Ice-candyman, masseur and other lovers. She also wants to know what is between her father and mother especially when they love each other and fight each other. Her curiosity makes her learn so many things and she has been able to guess the things on the basis of her experiences which she has learned due to her curiosity. She is very much honest, she always speaks truth.

Her trauma starts when she finds the sudden changes around her. She observes, multi-religious people in her circle, how they become enemy of each other who take oath before partition to stay together in any situation. She finds them changing their behavior and actions against each other. Once she is asked by the mob about the availability of the Ayah her nanny. She speaks truth and informs that Ayah is inside the home but her truth gets her in traumatic situation. Her truth causes Ayah's kidnapping and Ayah is taken by the mob along with Ice-candy-man. After her departure, Lenny misses her and reacts:

"For three days I stand in front of the bathroom mirror staring at my tongue. I hold the vile..... I punish it with

rigorous scourings from my prickling toothbrush......" (Sidhwa, 1988)

The demonstration of the technique intrusion can be observed through the action of Lenny when she tries to hurt herself by pulling out her tongue as she thinks that it was her mistake that she revealed the availability of Ayah at the house when a mob visited her house in search of Ayah. She reveals Ayah's information as she believes in Ice-candy-man who is considered the true lover of Ayah. When the mob investigate about Ayah, all the people available there say that she is not there but when Ice-candy-man asks Lenny about her she speaks truth considering him the lover of Ayah but Ice-candy-man was not the same person, he has changed and now ready to take revenge for the loss of his family. He informs the mob to take her from the house and she is taken fiercely by the mob.

"Traumatized people relive the moment of trauma not only in their thoughts and dreams but also in their actions".(Herman, 2015)

So the particular above mentioned action of Lenny proves her traumatic person. Lenny feels uncomfortable in her absence. She repents for a long due to the abduction of Ayah. Lenny is compassionate, she had a great love for people around her for example when she meets Ranna and Dost Muhammad she has a great love for them especially for Ranna when he becomes injured and comes to her home. She feels very sad for her. Moreover, when her friend Papoo is beaten by her mother Maccho, she raises her complaint against her mother. Her compassion with Ayah have already been discussed that her separation makes her traumatic. Her compassion with Hamida is also observed when she tries to reveal her secret by asking repeatedly questions to her. When she is told that Hamida misses her children she feels really sad for her.

She has a roaming nature as well. She loves to visit historical places, she loves to find and meet new people that is why we observe that she has many friends in her circle. Her curious nature makes her understand the people not only from their faces but also from their feet. Once Lenny goes under the table and from the shoes she smells the

person sitting on the table. Her understanding of people makes her learn what her Cousin wants from her and she convinces him to fulfil his desire after marriage.

Nightmare comes in the category of intrusion. The theoretical framework talks about the nightmares in this manner:

"The traumatic moment becomes encoded in an abnormal form of memory, which breaks spontaneously into consciousness, both as flashbacks during waking states and as traumatic nightmares during sleep." (Herman, 2015)

Here we find Lenny baby is frightened about her nightmares. She visits zoo and sees there a wild lion and receives fear of that lion. The below mentioned lines from text prove the nightmares of Lenny.

"The ferocious beast of my nightmares ... lying in wait to spring......into my dreams."

"If he roars – which at night is rare – my daydreams turn into quaking daymares" (Sidhwa, 1988)

Lenny visits zoo accompanied with Ayah and Sher Khan. Sher Khan arranges her visit to see Lion and its cubs. Sher Khan looks upset because of his missing friends and Lenny says that the cubs of the lion are like Sher Khan, he is as innocent as cubs. She also passes the remarks that these cubs will be roaring within a year into my nightmares and making me frightened.

Lenny is a narrator of the story and we are informed about Lahore through her narration it is she who tells us what is Lahore and how is Lahore? She informs about Warris Road which is situated between Queens Road and Jail Road, she declares that Warris Road is her world because most of the time she moves around between these roads. She announces about the electric aunt and Godmother where she finds a lot of children. She informs us about her maid Ayah who most of the time is with her in almost every visit of her. All the suitors of Ayah are also introduced us by Lenny. Normally Ayah is admired by everyone she is so fascinated that everybody wants to talk to her but she is seen most of the time along with her five friends, Ice-candy-

man, Masseur, Sharbat Khan, Sher Singh and Knife sharpener.

In the end of the novel the incident of train also depicts traumatization when we discover the action of Juggut Singh who reaches the place where the train has to pass along with Muslims. Juggut Singh actually knows the intentions of the people of his community who have decided to take revenge to Muslims by killing them as the communal violence has reached here in Mano Majra. The Sikh community experiences a couple of incidents in which Sikhs were brutally murdered and to them Muslims were the reason of their murders, so they have decided to take revenge of those murders to the Muslims who are living in Mano Manjra rather they are leaving for Pakistan. Now they plan to kill them through the help of sharp rope which is fixed in a place where the train has to pass. The aim of that rope is to cut the Muslims who are at the roof of the train. Juggut Singh makes his appearance before the train in the place and starts cutting the rope, he is warned by the people of his community but he does not listen to them he keeps on cutting the rope so one of men shots him with the gun but by the time he almost finishes his work and falls in the lines and train passes over him. He sacrifices his life but manages to cut the rope before the arrival of the train.

CONCLUSION

The authors of both the texts have succeeded to explore partition trauma through the principal characters in both the texts. For instance Ayah (Shanta) in Ice Candy Man becomes the victim of partition trauma. She is living happily before partition all her friends of different religion welcome her in any situation. She is secure and happy internally as well as externally but when the partition takes place the whole scenario of her life changes into difficulties. She is abducted by her own lover. She is forcefully treated and kept there without her will. She is taken away from her people in Lahore. So her character is the good example of the reflection of partition trauma.

Intrusion and Constriction are two different components of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. These two components have different symptoms, we have observed these two components in the different major characters of both the texts. Some characters have the symptoms of both components and some have the symptoms of only one component. For instance in Train to Pakistan Hukum Chand displays intrusion and constriction, he gets flashback of his aunt who has died giving birth to children and her death was quite astonishing for him because she was staring the wall at the time of her death and her body was shivering and her eyes were reflecting terror as if she was noticing some ghostly creatures around her. The memories of her comes to him as flashback he observes her biting her tongue with mouth bleeding. These flashbacks proves intrusion in him and the use of alcohol on different occasion brings him in the category of constriction. He is observed frequently in the novel using whiskey.

Literary techniques depict traumatization in both the texts. Setting of Lahore in Ice-candy-man and Mano Majra, the fictional village, in Train to Pakistan depicts traumatization when both places are shown in the situation of riots and insurgencies. Lahore is shown burning when the buildings in Shalmi are burnt and blasted due to communal riots. Mano Majra is also shown devastating after the arrival of ghost train which is full of venomous corpses. Similarly the technique of narration also shows traumatization in both works. The narration of traumatic events is executed in such a way that raise terror and fear. In Ice candy man when the train comes from Gurdaspur and Ice-candy man receives the pieces of the bodies of his family. How much horrifying it is when you wait to meet someone and receive its pieces instead. The abduction of Ayah is made in such a way that also shows helplessness. The mob has arrived in search of Ayah and Ayah is inside the house hiding herself in order to escape but when the mob discovers her and drags her to the unwanted place it was all horrible and unendurable.

This research will be helpful for the patients of hysteria, trauma and collective trauma because in this particular age of uncertainty a lot of people are suffering psychologically because of uncountable problems in the forms of varied faces. We have managed to analyze the particular components that define symptoms of trauma and there are lot of components that can be explored further in order to

generate new cure and ideas for the patients of trauma. Further there are some other similar texts which can also be explored using these types of components.

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