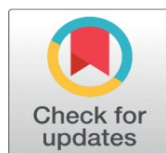
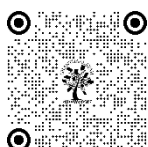


# THE REPRESENTATION OF CHILD CHARACTERS IN MOVIES DEPICTING THE UNREST OF THE SOCIETY

Pragya Jha <sup>1</sup>, Dr. E. S. Latha

<sup>1</sup> Research Scholar, University of Madras, India

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, Presidency College, India



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## ABSTRACT

This paper examines the multifaceted representation of children in cinema. It explores how children are portrayed not merely as passive figures but as active agents within narratives, often reflecting societal values, anxieties, and changing perceptions of humanity. The analysis considers the various tropes and archetypes associated with child characters, such as the innocent, the precocious, the troubled, and the magician, and how these representations intersect with themes of family, identity, and the situations in which they thrive. Furthermore, it investigates the evolution of child representation across different historical periods, highlighting how cinematic portrayals of children shape and are shaped by cultural contexts.

**Keywords:** Innocence, Trauma, Resilience, Narratives, Flaws

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. “A CHILD’S HEART IS FREE FROM ANY BURDENS- IT IS SIMPLE AND PURE”

This paper will explore the behavior of a child surrounded by the grim and gory environment, and how their survival instincts are awakened. There is always purity and innocence in a child, but circumstances lead to giving up on them. It also sometimes depends on each individual, and they fall prey to their own fate. This paper further discusses the tormenting realities of society with a hint of abomination for the same. The paper aims to critically analyse the child characters in two movies called, “The Boy in the Striped Pajamas” and “Capernaum” and how they deal with the grittiness of the society. Their ignorance and innocence will all be discovered, and the dilemma will be unriddled throughout the course of this paper.

## 2. THE DECISION THAT COSTS LIFE: *THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS*

*The Boy in the striped pajamas* is a movie set in the World War II era and in Poland. Its storyline revolves around the de-humanizing effects of the Holocaust and the baseless policies practiced by the Nazis. World War I and the hyperinflation resulted in a hand-to-mouth situation for the people of Germany. By that time Hitler rose to power and he started manipulating the people around. He published journals and newspapers emphasizing that the greater civilizations who were on this soil earlier, failed us and have betrayed the nation rather than overcoming the hunger, the poverty and the prosperity. We often find the prancing and ruthless moves by the higher authorities of Nazis against the Jews living in the concentration camps and how oblivious was the world about the same in the current scenario. This movie primarily reflects the effects of the status quo on the children. The three characters- Bruno, Gretel and Schmuell are showcased as having vitriolic effects of the revolution going on. These characters as well as the social unrest will be discussed and talked further.

The scene opens up with Bruno running freely on the streets near his house and enjoying with his friends, while we see a carriage full of people being stuffed and transported to the concentration camps. He did not even bother to stop and glance at them. He is undisturbed as he was happy in his own world where he knows that he will return back home to his parents and things will be fine. When he returns, he finds that the place he lives is cleaned and organized for the party of the high-ranking officials on the occasion of the promotion of his father. We see Gretel in white dress and in her room, holding her prized possessions i.e. her dolls and making sure to dress them up. It was a hobby for her and she used to dress them up with dresses of different colors like the girls of her age. This signifies the beauty and innocence present inside her. Soon they receive the news that they are shifting to the country side as the responsibility of their father has resulted in his transfer. While the family discusses this, the big regret for Bruno was to bid goodbye to his friends. The losing of home where he was born, losing friends and losing his neighborhood itself takes a toll on him. But this loss signifies the light he will be leaving and his movement towards darkness. Gretel though is happy that she will have an opportunity to make new friends as she is in that stage of life where she looks forward to it. In the journey, Ralph, the father looks like a family man who supports his family, protects them and earn bread and butter for them. He also loves his wife and deeply is connected with them. This family man was ultimately chosen to exterminate the Jews and disguise the abhorrent behaviour of the Nazis. Gretel on the other hand prays for the well being of the people and especially children.

They enter the countryside house barricaded with barbed wires around and consisting of tall walls and the whole house was painted black signifying the effects of evil and darkness which is driving the people towards such heinous act. Walls were symbolic of prison and domination and the black walls can signify the ashes of the burnt victim. Bruno went to his room and the small window attracts Bruno which was the window for him to explore new world while feeling like a quasi-prisoner of the regime. He tries to settle down now and tries to curiously seek friendship in those small houses visible through his window. He moves and asks his mother regarding those small houses and he gets an answer that they are farmers and he meets Pavel (a Jew in the camps) bringing the veggies inside the kitchen and he looks at the striped pajamas. Elsa, his mother, refutes the idea of him making friends with them and tries to ask him to refrain from exploring the people. By this time, she gets a clue that they are Jews in the concentration camps and are very near to her residence. To stop Bruno from getting in touch with the people, the wooden planks are nailed on the windows to block his view of the camps. We find that a boy who is unaware from the ongoing unrest is forcefully asked to follow the orders which further enrages a sense of rebelliousness inside him. His time becomes cyclical which consists of playing by the tree swings and also trying to play with his toys but being stagnant at a place. He falls from the swing hurting himself which leads to Pavel helping him with the first aid. We can see that the character Bruno is hesitant towards the treatment and thinks that it can lead to marks on his body. But Pavel assures him that he was a doctor earlier which again leads to his inquisitiveness. Why will a doctor turn into a house help and peel potatoes? Why is he looking frail and wearing those striped pajamas regularly? These questions haunt him but he is sure that he is a good man and a kind man too. When he asks his father about visiting those farms, he gets a reply which becomes the highlight of the inhuman treatment done by the Nazis. Ralph replies, "Those people now you see, they're not really people." Then who are they? And how do they end up here? And we see Ralph trying to abandon his son's curiousness because he has no further answer for the same. He is following the orders and, in the end, he is just a puppet of the system. Soon Gretel and Bruno receive a news that they will be home-schooled which excites Bruno as he no longer has to go to school. He gets a tutor who takes out a heavy book and recites praises for the Nazis. He tries to inculcate the idea that the Nazis were superior among the other cultures around. The education was not based on facts and figures, but rather it was a way to commemorate the Nazis' struggles

and hardships. The propaganda is being set and their ignorance results in the indoctrination of Gretel and the obliviousness of Bruno. The Nazis had full control over education and so they were preaching the ideas which were suitable to their own principal. As George Orwell once said, "History being written not in terms of what happened but of what ought to have happened according to various party lines." They were controlling the mindset of people and manipulating them according to their own will and forcing the future generations to follow the same hatred towards the other culture. Bruno remains ignorant, searching for freedom from the people around him and he finds things monotonous and illogical. He continuously tries to find an escape from the narrative. He waits for the correct opportunity that comes when he notices an open door leading towards his backyard which leads him to a shed and from there, he can cross a jungle, a stream of river and land himself to the farms.

We see the first glimpse of the friendship of Bruno and Shmuel. Shmuel is first time introduced in the film and he is sitting in the corner of the fence trying to get some time out for himself. Shmuel is representing the voice of Jews in the movie. Bruno meets him and the barbed wires between them divides them. These wires even signify the division of the culture, the division of the current status and one is free now while the other is still inside the prison looking upon his life. Bruno notices that he is wearing the same striped pajamas like Pavel and he thinks that they have to continuously wear it. The uniform makes him ask to Shmuel about the uniformity maintained by wearing this uniform and why is it required? Shmuel shrugs off as he himself is ignorant of the destruction they are facing. He does not know why he has to wake up and do work and why does he have to behave but we see him following the cyclical time frame too. He is fearful of the atrocities of the officials and does not let them catch him slacking off. Shmuel has found a corner in the camp where he can sit, hiding from the officials and rest. We can even see that the people in the camps are identified by the numbers mentioned on their uniforms which shows how the regime is eager to erase the identity of the Jews. They are repressing them to such an extent where the uprising itself will not be possible. Bruno and Shmuel's friendship develops and Bruno throws the ball inside the camp hoping to play, but Shmuel in fear rejects his idea of the same. Shmuel is scared that the officials will see it and he will have to face the wrath and requests Bruno to just talk to him. They just sit and talk and Shmuel only requests Bruno to get him food. This gives us the idea of starvation faced by the people in the camps. The hair of Pavel and Shmuel is also shaved off so that the ego inside them and respect for the culture should also be scrambled from their inner consciousness. Slowly, the friendship grows and Bruno finally has a friend. Unusual friendship is developed where in such a small age they can talk and understand each other.

While Bruno is engaged by his friendship with Shmuel, Gretel grows amongst the ideologies of the Nazis. Swiftly the ideologies make a space in her mindset and she recognizes the value of unity. The dolls in her room are replaced by the posters supporting the regime and the Hail Hitler poster is one of them. Even her way of looking at things change and her perspectives were inclined towards the behaviour of Nazis. She is infatuated towards the Lieutenant and surrounds herself with the soldiers. Her infatuation is the result of similar ideologies of the people around her. We, as an audience, believe that if she would have some friends with different ideologies, or she would have someone to share her passion for dolls or if the education had not failed her, then this extremism would not have occurred in her. In one of the scenes, we see the dolls lying in a box- dismembered and naked. Her innocence is dismembered and the nakedness of the society is visible here. The girl who was asking for peace and happiness has changed and this is noticed by Elsa. Gretel now stepping into her adolescence is even expecting a skin-ship support from the Lieutenant and this physical support we seldom see till this point.

Things start to become worse and the situations are now visible to the children too. Shmuel enters the house as a house-help where both friends feel happy to see each other. Bruno offers him food and while Shmuel is enjoying the food, an intruder (Lieutenant) arrives. Lieutenant is an unctuous person representing the morals and values of the Nazis. He displays the anger and ruthless side of him. He used to treat the Jews without a hint of humanity. He felt that the only way to preserve his pride is to advocate this kind of behaviour towards the weaker people. A hint of his harshness is visible when Elsa asks about the whereabouts of the smoke which is coming out from faraway chimney and the gross smell, he replies. "They smell even when they burn." This shows the ominous thoughts carried by him and how he treats them. He intrudes suddenly between both the friends inside the kitchen and claims that Shmuel has stolen the food. Shmuel replies that he was rather given the food by Bruno. Then the head turns towards Bruno and due to the fear of alienation or violence, he refuses. Shmuel then is taken away and Bruno runs towards his room. Bruno is guilty and reflects upon himself. He knew that he has no allies and he was even pressurized by the situation, but giving a wrong testament is eating him up. The lie shows the fear inside him, but the guilt shows the love he has for his friend. He runs to patch things up with Shmuel, but nobody is there. He goes to the same place in the camp another day, but no sign of his friend. After few attempts, he finally finds Shmuel being injured and his guilt is doubled. The scar on his face is the

result of his cowardness. He tries to apologise and pacify him by giving him a promise that he will always be there for Shmuel if he needs. Shmuel accepts the apology and forgives him.

We see a dinner table scene where the Lt. Kotler is cornered by Ralph and his father. This scene is significant as it portrays the violence, cruelty, immoral acts of the Nazis. Kotler is asked about the whereabouts of his father and the stories become famous about him escaping the situation and running away. Ralph's father even tries to further elevate the situation by mentioning the honour and the pride. Pavel comes and pours the wine which spills over. Enraged by the situation, he drags Pavel and takes the anger out on him and we witness the concept of grotesque body of Bakhtin here. There is a degradation happening from a pure, spiritual body to the material body. Kotler beats him up while Elsa, Bruno and Gretel are looking at Ralph to react to the situation and stop all this. He, on the other hand, is nonchalantly enjoying his meal, but his eyes are down and there is a ick inside him which is coming from the humane side of Ralph. Though Bruno is now questioning whether his father is a hero or a villain, for the first time Bruno knows the difference between the right and the wrong. He broods over the event which has shaken him from the inside. But more than that, Elsa is affected with the further chain of events like the death of her mother-in-law, who supported humanity and was against the dictatorship of Hitler. Elsa and Ralph were getting into constant bickering regularly and this was witnessed by Gretel and Bruno. Gretel confesses that she wants to go back now. She knows that this place is not suitable for her and she wants to rely on her childhood for a little bit longer. She pacifies her brother and we see her hugging him and both were supporting each other with the physical touch. They knew that things are not great and can even turn worse. Elsa, on the swing, represents her trying to get back to her childhood where these situations were unimaginable. This retributive approach of the Nazis were not supported by her. "The strength of people is in the fact that how much truth they can endure," and Elsa was breaking apart after witnessing the moral contradictions of the Nazis since she was also the part of the system. The belief of Bruno in his father was breaking apart till the time he saw the documentary which was played in the hall when other officials were visiting Ralph. For setting a narrative, for the world they shot a video where they represented the concentration camps as a spot of recreation and enjoyment. The children, women and men were having the time of their life with new clothes and new shoes. There was not a single mention about the striped pajamas. Media influence was used to clean the slate for these officials and make the world believe the piousness of the regime like Bruno believed. He hugged his father with a sigh of relief and knows that he is still a hero for him. The conviction he has for his father is not a failure. Though as the tensions grow, parents decide that Elsa will move back to Berlin with her kids till the time things are quiet. The same is discussed with the kids, but Bruno again does not want to leave his friend behind. Recognising that he has no say in the same, he moves to tell this to Shmuel and finds him distressed about his father. Shmuel has not seen his father and he wants to find him for the sake of his own peace. Even though the world is at chaos, family member's presence makes it a better place to live. Shmuel shares the news of his missing father with Bruno and this is the beginning of the destruction of both friends. Bruno discovers that he can get inside the camp by digging the soil and so he will look for his father which will even relieve him from the guilt. He asks Shmuel to prepare a uniform for him and he will help him to find his father. He returns next day on the same spot, gets inside the camp and starts looking for his father. They look for him everywhere when suddenly the soldiers ask them to assemble near the chamber. In search of the father, they move towards the chambers but seeing everybody naked inside, they had questions in their eyes. Though in the tough situation, they innocently hold hands looking for companionship in these conditions. Oblivious that this is the end of their life tunnel, they keep on holding hands and died with the questions in their eyes and soon the screams were over. The ending leaves us thinking that how far a civilization can go to establish power and the dominance. The story revolves around the friendship of two different cult people, being born in different culture and the innocence binds them together. The story represents the revolution involving the people and appeals to our inner conscience to explore the issues of the times with the very simple representation of the storyline. Bruno, Gretel and Shmuel were somewhere mentally in the same prison; they were unable to speak their minds and they have to follow the rules of regime. It showcases a story of holocaust with the simple representation.

### 3. THE BURDEN ON THE SMALL SHOULDERS: *CAPERNAUM*

'*Capernaum*' is a Lebanese movie based on the real lives of Beirut. The title was very smartly chosen as it meant chaos and it was evident throughout the film. This movie was appreciated around the globe for its picturization, storyline and the detail-oriented plot surrounding around the marginalized individuals. The protagonist of the movie is a 12-year-old resilient boy- Zain and the struggles he had to face in such a small age. It also represents the unacceptable image of the society where people are evil, they are ominous and detrimental.



The story opens with Zain in the prison and charges implied on him for the attempted murder of two men. The story starts when Zain complains to the court against his parents who gave them birth and he sues them for giving him birth. The movie swings around the present situations and the flashback. Zain was a small boy in a house of innumerable children and he was taking care of each one of them. Instead of going to the school, he became the bread-earner of the family and was working hard to provide for his family. James Campbell once said that, "A child's shoulders were never intended to bear the weight of adult burdens", but here Zain had no choice. He was denied the basic right of children and that is education for the sake of burdening him with expenses of the family. We even see him taking a prescription to the chemist and getting medicines which was then crushed, mixed in water and sold to the prisoners for a hefty sum. The drugs were introduced very early in his life and he knows the value of them. He had a sister Sahar and he wanted to protect her. He was the eldest in the family and each and every sibling of his was like a prized possession for him. He knew that the intentions of Asaad (the owner of the shop where Zain worked) for Sahar was not very welcoming. So, to protect her he used to throw away the supplies provided by Asaad for gifting his sister. He knew the plans of Asaad which reflects the foresightedness of Zain. One day when he spots the blood spots of Sahar, he knew that the time has arrived and he quickly takes her to the nearest public toilet. He asks her to wear his clothes and washes her garments. He requests Sahar not to discuss this occurrence with anybody and he will take care of the rest. He knew that the menstrual cycle has begun for his sister and now he has to protect her even more. He knows that if the news reaches their ignorant parents, they will utilize it for their own well-being. He keeps on stealing supplies so that nobody notices the same. As he is working extra hours, he takes his sister with him to protect her from their parents, but she continuously faces the clients who makes advances at her. Sahar is oblivious of the same and does not understand how to react but she has a brother who reacts on her behalf by keeping them away. Zain knows that now he has to run away as the last resort to save his sister and while they sleep at night beside the moaning sounds of his parents, Zain devices a plan. He thinks of escaping the conditions with his sister so that he will live for himself. At the end of the day, he knew that he cannot fight and so escaping from reality is what he needs to accept. This shows that he does not have trust in his parents, he does not want to tell anybody and he just wants to protect what is precious for him. He knows that the greediness around him will not let him protect his sister. He asks her to be ready and moves to gather supply for the travel. He is a very well-planned man or just a boy and want to gather only what would keep them safe. Zain hides the supply in the garbage bags and moves towards his house. A 12-year boy has planned to this extent and plots his every move but little does he know that the parents have already invited Asaad and is selling Sahar to him at a price. He returns only to find Sahar dolled up and sitting in the living room with everyone around. When he sits with Sahar alone, he knows that his attempts are now futile and in anger erases the make-up applied on Sahar. This incident shows the weakness of the society and the weakness of the man. He is a young man sitting there for a girl who is younger to him and just now she started her periods. Just to attract him and his lustful ideas, Sahar is dolled up. The parents, instead of protecting her, are trying to put make-up on her to sell her off at a better price. The perverts are buying the poor. He retaliates and this is faced by his mother who scolds him and throws him out. He tries to stop Sahar with all his might, but he cannot and he decides to run off too.

In the bus, he met the cockroach man (or a man wearing a costume of a cockroach) and this was the very subtle way of using animal imagery by the director. The cockroach is an insect which can sustain in any condition and is alive for a long time, signifying that this cockroach man will give Zain the same idea of motivation. He gets down in front of an amusement park and Zain follows him. He spends few days around the park and after the end of his supplies looks around for work. He asks for work everywhere around him hoping that he will feed himself again. Rahil looks at him regularly and feels sorry for him.

Rahil is an undocumented migrant who works in a mall saving every penny and keeping his one-year-old son with her and hiding him in the washroom of the mall. This shows the defect in the system and the mother's undying love for the son. She makes sure to protect him even in her working hours. One day they met and Rahil feeds him and he follows her like a dog. He thinks that the only way he can get anything is by following this lady and he is quick to prance on this opportunity. Rahil takes him to her small house and gives him a bath and lets him sleep comfortably in her house. Motherhood peaks in this scene and this motherly feeling received from a stranger was never given to Zain by his own mother. In return he takes care of Yonas (Rahil child). Audience sees a beautiful relationship evolving between Zain and Yonas. Zain now showcases her protectiveness for Yonas and not only that, he makes sure to keep him happy and always full. Rahil wakes up the next day and puts a fake mark matching with her ID on her face and for the first time she does not have to worry about her kid because someone more trustworthy is there. The mark on her face signifies the concealing of the system from their shortcomings. She moves to work and when she returns, she has a cake which she had hidden in the garbage bag in order to celebrate with her family and Zain was very much part of it now. This action is

similar to the action of Zain for his sister Sahar. The choices of the beggars are very limited and for feeding the empty stomachs anything will be fine. We find the claim of Marx, when he mentions that the capitalism poverty is the end result of structural processes that are constituted by relations of power and the power was in the hand of people like Aspro who benefits from the vulnerability. Through the course of the movie, we see Zain feeding Yonas, playing with him and even bathing him. He made sure to entertain him at all costs, but then one day the happy family was broken. Rahil disappears in the process of arranging money for her fake work permit through Aspro. This leaves Zain alone with Yonas and her not returning one night after other makes Zain suspicious. He exhausts all the food feeding Yonas and he makes sure that Yonas does not feel the need of his mother. He entertains him by holding him to the window where the television set of the next-door neighbour is reflected which quiets him down for few hours. This shows the resilience of Zain against the adverse situations and the hope which is still alive in him. He takes matters in his own hand and with Yonas moves towards finding her. In the journey of finding Rahil, he faces a number of struggles. He first finds Aspro and when Aspro asks him to give the baby and get the money, he refuses. Dejected that he is not going to find Rahil, he tries to leave Yonas on the street and asks him to sit at a certain place and not follow him around. But Yonas walks and tries to call him and follow him. He also was not able to go far and his concern for his brother sent him back to Yonas. An abandoned person does not have the heart to abandon others. The poverty struggles and vulnerability did not diminish his fierce protectiveness for the people he loves. He meets Maysoun, a Syrian refugee, and plans to forge a story to get resources from the Syrian camp. He arranges milk powder with which he feeds Yonas and at least makes sure that his stomach is filled. His protectiveness now mirrors the protectiveness he had for his sister and this time he wants to do it right without having guilt. This sense of responsibility inside him itself is rare to find in a boy of his age. When the water runs over too, he starts selling items from the house to fill to stomachs. He moves to sell geyser by keeping his brother beside him. After selling the geyser, he again finds the doctor's prescription for the drugs and he now knows what to do further. He buys medicines, crushes it, mixes it in water and sells it off. His small business takes off and he finally starts earning again and he keeps his money in the same place where Rahil used to keep. He takes care of Yonas too and makes sure that he is never alone. His love for his brother has led him to take risks and make sacrifices and the unvoiced promise of keeping Yonas safe becomes his goal. He again faces the issue where the owner of the shack where they lived closes the doors and puts a lock on the same. He screams and shouts and even tries to open the lock, but it is of no use. Dejected, he moves and visits Aspro abysmally seeking for his help. He asks Aspro to take Yonas and send him to a better family as he cannot take care of him anymore. he asks Aspro to illegally deport him to Syria where he might be able to start a new chapter with Maysoun beside him. When he leaves Yonas and goes to get himself cleaned up, he cries since he was not able to redeem his promise and he was not able to get redemption for not being able to take care of Sahar. He lost this time too and the guilt was visible in his tears. Aspro asked him to get an ID or any paper to recognize his birth and this forces him to return to his parents' house for the same.

Zain enters and chaos erupts in the house when he was discovered by the mother. He asks them for the paper so that he can run away again. He gets beaten up for asking about his own identity and they laugh about the insane idea he had. This reflects the irresponsibility of the parents. The paper which is going to stamp his presence in the world is not there. When he processes the stress of the identity crisis, he was facing due to this, father reveals that there is nothing other than the paper from the hospital and the death certificate. Zain curiously asks about the death certificate and it is revealed that Sahar had died. Zain enraged by this runs with a knife to kill Assad because it was his evil actions. Saadan Hassan Manto said, "If a man has to make woman the center of his love, why should he integrate animality into this sacred human emotion?....Is love the name of physical exercise?" This animality is visible in the movie instead of love. Rahil was left by her lover when she became pregnant as he believed he had used her up. Zain's parent showed love only on the bed with those moaning sounds. Asaad took Sahar but at the end of the day we see his animality in killing her. Zain runs and tries to stab Asaad.

Then we move forward to the prison where Zain is seen holding a receiver and calling a television host to complain about his parents for bringing him into this world. He uses media to make his voice heard because he felt that there would be many Zains like him suffering and he wanted to represent all of them. As expected, a lawyer agrees to take his case of suing his parents for bringing him into this world. This action is also the outcome of the rage he felt when the mother came to visit him in his cell with a candy and told him that she is again pregnant and is going to name the baby, Sahar. He throws the candy and his eyes show that his wonderment as to whether they have any remorse of their action. Do they feel guilty for their kids? Do they even realise what they are actually doing? Zain comes to the court and requests the same from the court proceedings. He wanted justice for those who are alive and not for those who are dead. In reply to his complaints, the dad in his defense says that he nonchalantly remarks that this is the only responsibility of a father

towards the society and it is for this that he was sent by God. His subjective truth represents the weakness of the society. He beautifully puts them on the ancestors and the almighty whom one cannot question. When Asaad was asked about his misbehavior with Sahar which led to her demise, he also replies that he has seen people around him doing this and it is common and they get kids after having sex and he never imagined that Sahar will die. This again makes the court question the bogus believers of the society and its practices. Freud believed that the civilizations develop on the footsteps of morality and the principles and values of the previous civilization. Those values were by far lost in the society concerned with sexual satisfaction and pornography. Finally, Zain requests the court to ask his parents to put an end to the suffering of his other siblings by stopping their productivity. He requests that care must either be provided to the kids who are born into this world or they should not be born. His win is only reflected in a picture which he takes for his first ID of his life wherein he smiles. He finally has an identity and this identity will protect the children who are born.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

If we try to find the similarity between the child characters in both the movies, then it will be their words which were meaningless in front of the powerful. Nobody heard them and they were helpless without the allies in their own world. They seek the allies from external sources rather than from their own houses. They had love in their hearts, but it was challenged now and then by the harshness of the situations. A child projects an image of innocence, kindness, morality and a little bit of leniency in dealing with the world. While we see the innocence, kindness and leniency in the small five-year-old kids-Bruno and Shmuel, the same is missing in Zain as he is more street-smart and he has to be shady to survive in the adverse situations. Bruno is in a more privileged position where he can enjoy the basic necessities of life whereas Shmuel and Zain have to earn it. Zain does not only earn those necessities for his own self but for the whole family. Bruno and Shmuel are oblivious about the situations around them, whereas Zain has learnt to get through the same. There are similarities and differences, but what amazes the audience is the portrayal of the child characters in these movies. They represent a collective consciousness for the people living in these situations. The death of Bruno and Shmuel represents the death of humanity and a sad ending of the movie. The ending of '*Capernaum*' is the victory acquired by Zain who finally gets his identity and wins the case. Both the movies are elemental and requires a special recognition around the globe. These movies can also provide an insight towards the psychological aspects of the child. But for now, these speak up in volumes against the insane, irrational and non-sensical situations around the world and questions the de-humanization by these child actors.