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## 2. Extravaganza of Strategic Use of Power in *Harry Potter Series*

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### Abstract

The researcher focuses on the elements of strategic power that tend the character to achieve a particular goal. The analysis of power elements gives a wider perspective to understand the operating elements of power in more detail. Hence, the exploration is more interesting when the power elements and their operating strategy are understood. The masterpiece written by J. K. Rowling i.e. *Harry Potter Series* has competently analyzed the strategic use of power elements to make the story spectacular and more entertaining. In different situations where the strategic use of power by the villain of the story is identified, at the same time, also the protagonist in the story engaged in the strategic use of different elements to defeat the deadly villain, Lord Voldemort. The combination of characteristic features of the three friends, Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, and Hermione Granger make strong triangular power protection which is unbeatable and indestructible. Underestimating the three friends and the egoistic approach become reasons for Voldemort's ultimate defeat; as a result, he lost his powers and existence. The story of *Harry Potter* significantly emphasizes the power of 'Love and Sacrifice' to defeat the villain and face the challenge in human life.

**Keywords:** Strategy, Power, Love, Sacrifice, Evil

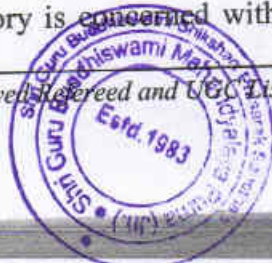
### Introduction

The power flows through different power elements in the *Harry Potter Series* written by British Novelist, J. K. Rowling. The story is about Harry and his friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley all of who are students of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The main story is concerned with Harry Potter's struggle against the dark

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sort who wanted to become immortal and overthrow the governing of the magical Ministry of Magic and suppress all the wizards and even Muggles / Non-magical (Harry Potter"). The struggle of Harry Potter makes him stronger in course of time. Voldermort were killed by Voldermort to attack Harry by killing curse because he wanted to live according to the prophecy, Harry would kill Lord Voldermort. The quest to become a immortal and live forever was the utmost blunder of Voldermort which forced him to kill his own son and later, attack Harry.

There are two sides of the story in the *Harry Potter* series i.e. good and evil representing the dual position. The actions are the opposite of virtues and human values which are considered as very bad and unpleasant generally called evil. Destroying, betraying, lying, and all these activities are declared as evil.

Discrimination is also an output of evil power which makes the situation favorable to gain superiority. Racism in the wizarding world is not related to race, as it is not related with skin colour or culture. However, it is a matter of pure blood in the world of magic which is indirectly concerned with Muggles, Squibs, Muggle-born, half-bloods, etc. The issue of the world of magic is an issue related to political power- politically powerful people and the other people who are powerless similar to in the real world. Racism and discrimination go hand in hand in the wizarding world also. There are different rules for the non-magical creatures for example- goblins, house-elves, centaurs, etc. Muggles, werewolves, and House-elves, all these are not allowed to keep and use wands according to the law 15 b' (Rowling Ord. of Ph. 665). Even some magical creatures are kept away from wizarding legislation which is quite unfair. The magical world considers the Muggles as inferior to them and they have no right to know about the existence of wizarding worlds; Muggles believe that there is a solution to all their problems in magic and could try to solve them and witches do the same. However, magic cannot solve all human problems as

Interestingly, a team of wizards works to prevent Muggles to know about the magical world.

## Ministry of Magic

The Ministry of Magic is a regulatory body for wizards and witches in United Kingdom (UK). It manages the magical activities and related affairs in Britain. The Ministry of Magic is



associated with the International Confederation of Wizards: the Ministry of Magic has to and obey the International law, rules, and regulations for example the International Secrecy- according to which Muggles should not allow knowing about the existence of wizards and witches. Each country has its own Ministry of Magic for example- Bulgarian Ministry of Magic according to its reference in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of fire*.

### Discipline and Control

Wizard's system of discipline and justice is the same as the system in the real world. Wizarding discipline and justice system has the Department of Law Enforcement (like Police in the real world) which controls the criminal activities and handover the criminals to the High Inquisitor of Wizengamot, a wizarding court, which gives punishments according to the severity of crime. Some of the spells are considered as Unforgivable Curses; the use of which can give lifetime punishment in Azkaban (Rowling Goblet 192). There are approximately three spells considered as Unforgivable Curses: Imperius, Avada Kedavra, and Cruciatus. If the criminal activity is compared with the crimes in the real world, there are similarities. Murder of any human being is considered as a severe crime for which there may be punishment i.e. life sentence or the death penalty.

### Hogwarts School

Hogwarts School of witchcraft and wizardry has a power structure operated with a system of power relations among different authorities. There is a system to evaluate the students' performance in examination; according to which the students are awarded grades. The Hogwarts School admits only the students who have the talent to do magic. The school is free of any cost for the students; the students have to purchase only books, robes, and other important things. For the students who are unable to afford all these things, there is a school fund through which they can have books, robes, and other required things. The school doesn't select the students based on their economic status, rather based on their ability and talent to do magic.

J. K. Rowling wants to point out the very important and serious problem of the current education system which facilitates only the rich and elite people; only rich people can afford good education. Poor people have to send their children to schools where the level of education is very low as a result these students cannot develop their skills and talent. In Britain, there is a Grammar School, where the educational level is quite reasonable as compared to other schools (Oakland 247). J. K. Rowling wants to emphasize that all the students whether

  
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poor or rich must be treated in the same way and get an equally high level of education so that the economically poor students also can develop their skills and talent along with the students from rich families. The author shows the need of the equal treatment in the education system for all the students whether they are rich or poor.

### Dumbledore as a Powerful Wizard

Albus Dumbledore is a Headmaster at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. He is extremely powerful because he has a lot of magical powers as well as political power relations. Apart from that, he has an intelligent and impressive personality which is mostly compared with that of Lord Voldemort who is also considered a powerful character with magical powers. "Headmaster: Albus Dumbledore has- Order of Merlin, First Class, Grand Sorc., Chf. Warlock, Supreme Mugwump, International Confed. Of Wizards" (Rowling Stone 42). This is the explanation on a chocolate frog card. These cards show information related to the most famous and powerful wizards and witches. The titles in front of Dumbledore indicate his level of magical powers. Order of Merlin is considered the highest award in the wizarding world which is given to the most powerful wizard who has unbeatable magical powers.

### Conclusion

J. K. Rowling employed power elements operated by different powerful characters who want the favorable output to fulfill their desires like- becoming and remaining powerful for a longer time. The mere understanding of the power elements will not give a wider perspective to understand how the power elements were operated strategically. To understand it one has to understand the rules of the game through which the operator wants to fulfill his desires. Each story has a good and evil side; both of them struggle for their existence. They also employ different power strategies to become more powerful or defeat the opposition. Whether it is political, physical, or magical power, one has to understand and employ strategic use of it then the story will become more interesting for the readers. The plain story would be boring through which the audience cannot be entertained. The inclusion of strategic use of power along with their relationship with the real-life experiences would make the story more comprehensive and interesting to capture the attention of the target audience. The author of the *Harry Potter* series is successful in that.

The characters in the *Harry Potter* series are more comprehensive because they embodied the real characters around us. The audience can easily relate and understand how people take

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advantage of their position for their benefits without considering others' problems. The functioning of government with the help of the Ministry also resembles the political situation in the real world. Thus, J. K. Rowling succeeded in her goal of entertaining the audience with the help of his masterpiece, the *Harry Potter* series.

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