

“Qualitative Analysis Of The Picture Of Dorian Gray: With Respect To Homosexuality-A Christian Guilt, And Gothic Degeneration With An Influence Of Fustian Exchange.”

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Abstract:

The concept of Homosexuality in the “the picture of Dorian gray” was come to light in 19th century, which is basically a Christian guilt because it is against the will of God, as proved in the old testaments of the bible. Hedonism makes an alignment with notion of Homosexuality on the basis of pursuit of pleasure and insatiability. The Dorian gray is a perfect representation of these concepts with respect to its gothic elemental setting like Fustian agreement and gothic degeneration. The gothic degeneration provides diverse strata to aestheticism in the novel, which seeks a deplorable manner of criticism from discrete authors of that following era. The literary criticism on the hedonistic character “the Dorian gray” fetches the keen eye of researchers to work on it with context to religion or societal norms on further basis.

Keywords: Fustian agreement, Hedonism, Christian guilt, Homosexuality

Introduction:

Aestheticism was a 1800s artistic movement that underscored the aesthetic appeal of literature, music, and the arts over their sociopolitical functions. According to Aestheticism, art should be generated for the sake of beauty rather than for moral, allegorical, or didactic reasons, as demonstrated by the mantra "art for art's sake". The artist depicts the art in an objective manner rather than the subjective, to express his own analogous experiences. The given study “the picture of Dorian Gray” is an infamous tale of aestheticism with inimitable themes, which is analyzed on the basis of the concept homosexuality with respect to hedonism, a Christian guilt and the gothic degeneration. Consequently, the Dorian gray provides contradiction between the fundamental

meanings of the novel due to allegation on immorality. The first copy of the novel was weakened by the addition of new chapters to remove the indifference within a text, which depicts the explicit homosexual language in the meaning of the novel.

In “Fiction and Allegory” Edourd Roditi classifies Dorian gray as an “Ersheihangursman of Dandyism” which confronts the novel’s generic diversity. With a wide prospect, the excessive refinement or foppishness in the personal manner and way of act or behave in the personality of Dorian Gray makes him the most treacherous or selfish in nature of society. The term morality was widely mentioned in the Great Britain during Victoria's reign. A moral standard was implemented to almost everything. Cultural orders were classified utilizing morals. The concept of homosexuality was a taboo in the 19th century because it is an immoral act and against the will of God.

Literature review

In a study “Aestheticism and social anxiety in the picture of Dorian gray” by Mitsharu Matuska, The examination was brought by conformation of the behavior of Dorian gray regarding to Benthamite philosophy which told that the ultimate goal of a human was pleasure and beauty in two sovereign motives. It provided the stringent discrimination among the concept of pleasure which might distinguish the aestheticism and hedonism. The credo 19th century art for art sake, with respect to the picture of Dorian gray was the conceptual variant of Benthamite hedonism. The philosophical contemplation or triangular relationship between the Basil, Sybil Wane and the Dorian gray was sexual implication that was later on turned into eroticism. According to the study, the aesthetes like Wilde, smudged complencies against the ruling and middle class of the Victorian era to formulate their double standards and staid conservatism. The grotesque portrait of Dorian gray is explicit depiction of gross immorality of 19th century.

According to Nils Caulson in “Culture and corruption”: Paterian Self-development versus Gothic Degeneration in Oscar Wilde’s the picture of Dorian gray, the emerging chapters of the novel depicted the awakening or growth of Dorian Gray under the influence of homoerotic painter the basil and the lord Henry, a subversive philosopher of a notion of “a true pleasure and joy of living, which leads Dorian to the discovery of his own homosexuality. Wilde’s emerging homosexual concept leads towards the plague or degradation of morality to conceal their pleasure. The hedonistic individualism haunted the character “the Dorian Gray” towards the vicious self-gratification.

The gothic degeneration was a paradox to the beauty and the grotesque portrait of the Dorian Gray, which penetrated a fatal sexual power in young men, especially young aristocrats in the form of fatal confrontation. The term homosexual is categorized as the degenerative hereditary mental disease that left the human into dark sides of horror like in transgression and repression.

Another study was taken under observation (Aestheticism, homoeroticism, and Christian guilt in the picture of Dorian gray) by Joseph Corall showed that the Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde posed two distinct dilemmas to Darwinian criticism. For starters, the novel was swamped with homoerotic sexual feeling, defying any simple reading in terms of reproductive success behavior. Second, the novel's central conflict was the involvement of two competing visions of human nature, which was not able to structure the quasi-Darwinian ability to induce inference in most realist and naturalist fiction.

According to Isaac Emanuel¹, Wilde's described in the Preface that the artist should create beautiful things which referred to the concept of independence from moral scruples. The juxtaposing of vice and virtue by Wilde through the description of Sybil vane's love for Dorian gray and then, on the other hand, he was being a culprit of Sybil Vane's suicide; showed the contravention on this cruel circumstances of the theme.

In a nutshell of a book "the living dead: A study of the vampire in the romantic Literature"² by James.b.Twitchell, described the fustian exchange with a myth or a notion that the creator or in other words the painter might change his energies with an object or creation, to get the eternal specialties or immortality. It revealed the destruction in the nature of realistic art and showed the concept of aestheticism by creating illusion between reality and creativity, to make it fascinate in the terms of beauty.

Research Questions:

- Is homosexuality a Christian guilt in Victorian age?
- How Dorian gray is an effective character of the novel with gothic degeneration?
- Is Fustian exchange playing an essential role in the Gothic degeneration?

Research Methodology:

The type of methods and ways used to conduct a research is processed by using qualitative method approach. Analysis is based on collection of data with secondary approach, which is qualitative in nature to explore existing knowledge and historical trends of the given data that is under observation. The sampling methods was used in this research was probability sampling, where the general or whole population without any specification would be target as readers.

Analysis:

¹ ELIMIMIAN, I. (1980). "PREFACE" TO "THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY" IN LIGHT OF WILDE'S LITERARY CRITICISM. *Modern Fiction Studies*, 26(4), 625–628. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26280606>

² The Living Dead: A Study of the Vampire in Romantic Literature
By James B. Twitchell

The following research has been employed on the given problem statement “Qualitative Analysis of the Picture of Dorian Gray: with respect to Homosexuality-A Christian Guilt, and Gothic Degeneration with an influence of fustian exchange”. The research is based on the pure qualitative research method, because it deals with qualitative analysis of the picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde, and the source is secondary; the articles and the research papers on the literary criticism of the picture of Dorian gray which were taken under observation. As the study deals with secondary data collection then it is important to elaborate its validity in a descriptive manner. It is divided into three parts on the basis of answering the research question that is mentioned above. The whole research is based on the sample text analysis where the original text and the literary criticism on above mentioned concept were under observation to ensure the validity of the findings.

Is homosexuality is Christian guilt in Victorian age?

Firstly, the concept of hedonism with respect to homosexuality is an appealing argument to show that whether it is a Christian guilt generally or in Victorian age. Hedonism is a belief in which the pursuit of pleasure is an ultimate priority and it ignores the all values of vice and virtue and right and wrong. When the concept of homosexuality connects with most prior feature of pleasure then, it aligns with the hedonism and it is ridiculous idea to pursue your self-gratification on these wicked immoral priorities against the will of God. The homosexuality is same as other severe sins which lead the debauchery and unethical terms in the society, and it is termed as immoral act. Is homosexual behavior prohibited by the Bible? As stated by the Bible which is so accurate and it might not expect it to address a topic like homosexual behavior. There are six places in the Bible—three in the Old Testament and three in the New Testament—where this issue is directly addressed, not to mention all the passages dealing with marriage and sexuality that have implications for this issue. Homosexual acts are unequivocally condemned in all six of these passages.

“³In Leviticus 18.22 it says that it is an abomination for a man to lie with another man as with a woman.”

“⁴In Lev. 20.13 the death penalty is prescribed in Israel for such an act, along with adultery, incest, and bestiality.”

In a Victorian age, homosexuality hits differently as compared to the modern world but there is still some regions of it that consider it as a taboo like in early 19th century, where cultural values were the foremost priority. Homosexuality was a gross indecency in that era, which destruct the family structures according to the laws of the society. It was rarely discussed by the families because if there was a homosexual person in the family, it would be outcast from the Victorian society. On the other hand, the family was seen by lowly grades. Oscar Wilde and its writing the picture of Dorian Gray faced criticism and deplorable manner of perspective of society because of the immoral concept of homosexuality, which was consider a grave threat to stability of Victorian

³ Leviticus 18.22, The Bible

⁴ Leviticus20.13, The Bible

society because it strayed the society from the ideal notion of masculinity. The protagonist Dorian Gray and his Friend Basil shows the obsession with the beauty of Dorian with double meanings. As per the Author Oscar Wilde was a homosexual; he promoted this concept by his trials and then it came to light of society. That's how it caught hype in the society, but there were severe repercussions for the followers and it termed as vicious sin.

How the Dorian Gray is an effective character of the novel with the gothic degeneration?

The notion of gothic degeneration refers to the suffusing concept of insatiability, bestiality, and unease through gothic elements like grotesque appearances or portrait in the picture of Dorian Gray. This leads towards the deterioration of physical level with respect to character of the protagonist Dorian gray. The portrait of Dorian Gray by his friend Basil is a symbolic representation of the gothic degeneration which makes the character of the protagonist more intriguing towards the readers. This develops the double meaning in gothic elements by adapting or modifying the pre-existing narratives, like the vulnerable heroine, a majestic or special hero/villain to hide the implicit insatiable nature.

Wilde made heroine Sybil Vane into Dorian, a grand figure, but he turned into villain with an influence of Satan-like Lord Henry and his subversive philosophy in the garden of Dorian Gray. The secret of homosexuality and others sins like responsible for the committed Suicide of Sybil Vane and the murder of James Vane were hidden in the portrait with ugly and grotesque appearance in the attic of the prestigious and mysterious place of Dorian gray. Wilde portrays sins of the Dorian gray self expressively and make gothic feature appealing through the aesthetic terms, because the picture of Dorian gray is the visual representation of the degradation of his sins that engulfed his inner like a termite. A paradox of sexual liberation with repulsiveness and beauty leads the Dorian gray to decline of his character , which makes the character of protagonist more powerful. In other words it is a sign of his fall or degeneration as a character of the novel but it reveals a worthy emphasis on the coherence of the text and makes it tangible for readers with full of suspense.

Is Fustian exchange playing an essential role in the Gothic degeneration?

A fustian pact is a remarkable symbolic feature prevailing in the gothic degeneration of the Dorian Gray. It is a trade of souls with demonic figures to fulfill his all desires. The portrait of the Dorian gray is comparable with fustian legend, because as same as it the Dorian gray desired to maintain his youth and beauty eternally. He feared that the factor of aging might disturb his collocation of worldly life. A fustian agreement he made reveal that the progression of aging is captured in the portrait while the eternal beauty and youth is interpenetrated in his soul. The portrait depicts the personal morality of the Dorian, which is infected with insatiability and debauchery.

The consequences of the fustian agreement made his portrait a grotesque and ugly with respect to his satanic sins. Wilde composed the Lord Henry as Satanic advocate with the Fustian devil, which

compelled or manipulated Dorian, an intimate fellow to make an agreement. Lord Henry and his subversive ideology make him to think that the Sybil Vane's committed Suicide is his fault in evil senses. At the end, in fustian pact it is not easy for him to escape from the moral consequences and actions, which is concealed in the immoral manner.

Resultantly, the Dorian gray got fed up by the treacherous depiction of his unequivocally condemned soul in the portrait and put a knife in the heart of the picture of Dorian Gray, a screams cried out and then it was found by the servants that there was grotesque corpse on the floor and a beautiful portrait of Master Dorian on the wall. The soul always faced a huge loss in the fustian exchange and it is devilish act and a myth in the history.

Conclusion:

A given study ensures that the concept of the homosexuality itself or with respect to hedonism is a Christian guilt with reference to old testaments of bible, but the modern world evolves the version of bible to seek their own pleasures. Art is for the sake of art, the character of Dorian gray has a strong foundation in the literature due to its severe criticism and Gothic setting without any specific order. The art is not relative to the artist because it is not compulsory for the author to meet the criteria of the reader, as art is the thing which s not taught to others because of their different perspectives. Resultantly, the picture of Dorian Gray is an amoral piece of an art and has a great impression on literary history but it is still categorized as censored text in most the regions of the world, due to its immoral concepts and themes. A more research should be recommended further to unwrap the binding knots on this contemporary issue that is discussed in the given study.

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