



The Model Millionaire – A Contemporary Wonder Tale

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Abstract: The aim of this research was to find the different techniques utilized in Oscar Wilde's short story *The Model Millionaire* and how they influenced the author's writing style. The methodology applied in the work describes the symbiotic and psychoanalytical theory and how the characters reflect these elements. This article applies the qualitative methodology where the readers can comprehend about the writer who is attempting to convey the literature point of view through his work. This study reveals the relevance of story even in the current generation that the state of mind of the people remains the same and expects the same.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis, symbiosis, sublimation, self-satisfaction

Introduction

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) is a well-known Irish playwright, poet and story writer of the late Victorian period. As a writer and critic, he is remarkable for his wit and brilliance. After his graduation from Oxford, he moved to London and established himself as a literary figure with the publication of poems, his first collection of poetry in 1881. In 1882 he travelled to America on a lecture of tour and talked extensively on art and poetry. He was a proponent aestheticism and argued for 'Art for Art's sake'. His important plays include *Importance of Being Earnest*, *Lady Windermere's Fan* and *An Ideal Husband*. He wrote the only novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. He was a devotee of art and beauty and was infamous for his disregard to morality. In his later years he was put in prison on charges of indecency. This resulted in his writing a poem *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* about his life in prison. He always showcased a different style of writing in his literary works. His short stories made him more popular with diversity of themes. In the story *The Model Millionaire*, a different kind of narration is implied which instigate the readers. As a Christian socialist, Oscar Wilde always gives importance to the social justice in all of his works. Most of his works are unique with exquisite language about the intrinsic worth of learning about kindness and wellness and how it is connected with human soul and spirit. This research paper is intended to find the concept of psychoanalysis and symbiosis in the writer who is an outstanding representative of the Victorian period and to analyze the different strategies applied in narrative style.

Literature Review

Language being the medium of communication helps an individual to deliver his/her ideas to understand each other. A piece of literature text is always required to convey a general notion through any medium. Individual works of a writer can be identified through their writing style and the portrayal of characters. This study tries to identify the concepts of symbiosis and the writing style of the author from the story *The Model millionaire*. Symbiosis is a concept of mutual relationship between the organisms which benefit each other. This article deals with the psychoanalytical and symbiosis aspects of the popular short stories *The Model Millionaire* by Oscar Wilde. *The Model Millionaire* is considered as one of the greatest works of Oscar Wilde which brings the elements of mutual relationship and natural generosity of human beings. The study



investigates the writing style and the general themes used in *The Model Millionaire*. Oscar Wilde depicts a distinctive writing style in the work to attract the attention of the audience. Psychoanalysis and symbiosis have been considered as the major themes of previous researches such as Pattama J.P. (2008). The researchers have analyzed and identified the connection between the elements used in the short story focusing on the writing style of Oscar Wilde and also depicts perception in his works, such as psychoanalytical aspects and symbiosis. Therefore, this research reveals the existence of these theories in his work *The Model Millionaire*.

Considering *The Model Millionaire* as an example, this article tries to analyze Oscar Wilde's writing style of the fairy tales and the portrait from three aspects. In the story *The Model Millionaire* Oscar Wilde uses simple language where the readers can comprehend the exact state of the author while constructing the plot.

Psychoanalysis exposes the connection between the unconscious behaviour and unconsciousness in the story *The Model Millionaire* through the character Hughie Erskine, a financially poor is moved to pity by the sight of an elderly beggar and is posing as a model to his artist friend.

Hughie is handsome, charming and popular. But he is very unlucky as far as financial matters are concerned. He was left nothing of any great value of his father's will. Despite, when he found an old beggar, he checks his pocket and he finds that the highest denomination coin which he has is a sovereign. Hughie was aware that if he donates this coin to the old beggar, he needs to economize more than usual for the rest of the month. Yet, he did not hesitate to give the coin to the old who appears happy to receive it. In this context, Hughie is not expecting back from the old beggar and this act of kindness gives a silent satisfaction to his unconscious mind which exposes the symbiotic relationship in the human minds. Hughie faced a lot of financial disaster and it proved he is unlucky in financial aspects. This paved way for his failure in love life and tries to find some kind of reward and compromise by helping the beggar.

As Wilde says "*Romance is the privilege of the rich, not the profession of the unemployed*".

Fairy tales always brings an element of surprise which elicits an enthusiasm in the reader's mind. Likewise, the story portrays that there is some reward for every act of kindness. Hughie never expected anything from the beggar although he decided to pay his highest remuneration he had. Hughie's mind had an unconscious expectation of happiness through helping the beggar. Unconsciousness is a reflection of mind where one can sense all the good and bad deeds of life. The mind demands to satisfy the urges, thoughts and feelings of one's' unconscious mind.

This desire of mind can be implicitly realized in the short story *The Modern Millionaire* through the portrayal of characters. Each and every one has a duty to complete in the story and everyone is successful in accomplishing their act. Hughie's helping mind even in the difficult situation and the millionaire's attitude towards Hughie's good deeds and Alan Trevor's sincerity in helping his friend by informing to the millionaire expresses a kind of self-consciousness to satisfy the unconsciousness. This unconscious satisfaction made the millionaire as a model in the story.

'Millionaire models,' remarked Alan, 'are rare enough; but, by Jove, model millionaires are rarer still!' Alan Trevor stated "Millionaire models are rare enough, but model Millionaires are rarer still", this statement refers the fact that only few models become millionaires, but "model millionaires are rare still" refers to even fewer millionaires are considered as role models in world. Regardless of how rich Baron (beggar) was, he was still generous and had heart to give things to people who are in need of it.

Psychoanalytic criticism is a form of applied psychoanalysis, a science concerned with the interaction between conscious and unconscious processes, and with the laws of mental functioning. It is one of the many different forms of study that use psychoanalytic concepts (particularly those of



Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan) to understand literature and culture since the beginning of the twentieth century. In addition to Freud and Lacan, major figures include Shoshana Felman, Jane Gallop, Norman Holland, George Klein, Elizabeth Wright, Frederick Hoffman, Slavoj Žižek and Simon Lesser.

Freud is important to the humanities as a psychologist and a philosopher. In his therapy, he examined how the human mind affected the body, particularly in form of mental illness, such as neurosis and hysteria, and in finding ways to cure those mental illnesses. Though the medical side of Freudian method is presently questioned, the philosophical side where he spoke about the fundamentals of one's selfhood, the nature of the human being and the operative principles of culture and civilization are important to humanities.

One of the starting points in Freud is the concept of civilization itself. In *Civilization and its discontents*, he speaks about the two principals at work in any society: the 'pleasure' principle and the 'reality' principle. The pleasure principle asks the individuals to do whatever feels good: the reality principle urges people to subordinate pleasure to more important things, for example, work. Sublimation is the process where one subordinates the pleasure principle to the reality principle. In other words, desires which are not fulfilled are converted into something sublime like the abandonment of sex in the name of intense spiritual or religious experiences. One may sincerely repress one's sexual urges for becoming a good sports star, a good academician, or a top business (wo)man. In short, Freud says that, without the sublimation of our sexual desires into more productive realms, there would be no civilization.

Though sublimation is important, the desire for pleasure exists in the psyche. Freud uses the term repression to refer to unresolved conflicts, traumatic past events, and unadmitted desires transferred into a zone of the mind known as unconscious. In fact, the lynchpin of Freudian psychoanalysis is the idea of unconscious, which is inaccessible to the individual or the conscious psyche of the individual. It is because of the unconscious that one is not a completely rational creature who acts only on the basis of the logic and intelligence, but instead is vulnerable to emotional and other kinds of non-rational or irrational appeals. So, one can summarize the Freudian model of the psyche, using the following key words.

Ego- mostly to partially conscious part of the psyche that process experiences and operates as a referee or mediator between the id and superego.

To satisfy the ego or the conscious mind is pulled between the two extremes of 'id' and 'superego'. On certain occasions, the unconscious speaks through some special languages and this is crucial for 'knowing the otherwise unknowable'. In *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Freud talks about the dreams mechanism, which is crucial for understanding the unconscious. He defines dreams as symbolic fulfilments of wishes that cannot be fulfilled because they have been repressed. As these wishes cannot be directly expressed as such – it may be painful to the ego if the forbidden things are revealed – they seek for expression in disguise, in dreams.

Conclusion

The concept of psychoanalytical and symbiotic theories has been demonstrated through Oscar Wilde's *The Model Millionaire*. By evaluating symbiosis and psychoanalytical theory, the context presents the form of elements related to the story. The story develops in a way that the characters try to satisfy within their inner consciousness which relates to the symbiotic theory. Oscar Wilde's writing style, according to the study, contains rich descriptions and artistic appearance in his short story. Through the story, Oscar Wilde builds an atmosphere which helps the readers to identify the power of self-satisfaction which connects the psychoanalytical theory. The author uses a variety of techniques to stress a particular portrayal, not just presenting explicit content but also building aesthetic values.



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