



The Effect Of Thomas Hardy's Characters On The Novels

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ABSTRACT

The influence of the environment on the characters in Thomas Hardy's writings" is an example of the writers' literary expertise and interest in reading novels. Because they all study the topic of Introduction to English Literature, the writers were able to pass on not only their limited expertise of analyzing novels as literary works but also the value of reading habits to their Unswagati classmates. Reading and analyzing novels is extremely advantageous for pupils since it not only improves their reading skills but also their English abilities; also, they will be able to criticize the novel from several perspectives. In a nutshell, it will boost their critical thinking skills. Following that, we learn about their culture by describing their personalities and their attitudes toward one another, as well as how their environment impacts them. Harvey, Murphy, Klarer, and Lodge are the authors of the theory that is employed to analyze those works. The descriptive qualitative approach is used to analyze the characters and their surroundings, in which the authors gather data by reading the three books, then describe in-depth the characters and their surroundings, as well as some other factors that contributed to the story's completion.

Keywords: surroundings; character; protagonist; motivations

I. INTRODUCTION

Hardy's works, according to this analysis, emphasize the dual function of modern advances. With the help of his main books, his attitude toward contemporary civilization is examined. With regard to Hardy's works, the term "modern civilization" refers to a period of recent or recent societal improvement. Modernization, as a never-ending process, has a beginning, which critics say began in Victorian England. The renowned Victorians, particularly the men of letters, were considered the forefathers of modernity. Modernization, as a global phenomenon, transforms the primitive social structure into the contemporary one.

This article explores the symptoms of modernity in Hardy's literature while focusing on the hot themes of late nineteenth-century Victorian England, such as the newest advances, the plight of the laborers, poor industrial growth in the rural region, and issues of class and gender. Throughout this research paper, Hardy's writings, particularly his approach to contemporary society, are examined in light of numerous reviewers' views. Hardy's writings are considered visual novels because he effectively illustrates the societal problems of his period in them. The current research examines Hardy's works from a fresh viewpoint, arguing that as a socialist, his attitude toward contemporary civilization, class differentiation, and gender issues is colored by conflict and collision.

II. THE COMPONENTS OF THE NOVEL

A novel is a type of literary piece. A novel is recognized to be lengthier than a short story. A short narrative, as the name implies, merely depicts a brief and uncomplicated incident. The book, on the other hand, generally describes something far more intricate. Readers who are inspired to learn more about the story's complexity, on the other hand, will be more interested in finding out how it ends. A book, according to Smiley, is an experience that occurs at the intersection of writing, language, narrative, length, and protagonist. According to Klarer, "classical epics are written in verse, but they clearly separate themselves from other kinds of poetry by length, narrative structure, character representation, and story patterns, and are labelled novel." According to, the novel has five basic components: story, character, place, conflict, and resolution.

Types of Character

1. Protagonists: Most often, the protagonist is the main character.
2. Antagonist: A character or force that opposes the protagonist.
3. Major character: Major characters will show up a lot, and they may fall into one of the other categories.
4. Minor character - Often provides support and illuminates the protagonist.
5. Static character - A character that remains the same. Static characters don't change.
6. Stereotypes: Stereotypes are often the lazy way for an author to fill up a book.
7. Dynamic character - A character that changes in some important way.
8. Foils: Foils are there to help compare and contrast another character.
9. Characterization - The choices an author makes to reveal a character's personality, such as appearance, actions, dialogue, and motivations.
10. Dummies- it helps to give information to the reader.

11. Dimensional - Characters who are well rounded and exist.

Characters might be major or minor players in the plot. Minor characters tend to be flat and remain unaltered throughout the novel, whereas prominent characters are more complicated and important to the plot.

Plot

A story's plot is made up of a series of events or actions. Plot, in a nutshell, refers to the events that occur in a story. As a result, the plot of a novel should have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Story structures include exposition, intricacy, climax, and resolution.

Setting

The setting refers to the physical location in which the action takes place. The location, as well as the atmosphere and its surroundings, should be described in great depth so that the reader can visualize the situation.

Conflict

In real life, we frequently encounter conflict, even within a small group such as a family, such as a fight between a husband and a wife; a mother-in-law and a daughter or son-in-law; and so on. This is due to variations in their perspectives, cultures, beliefs, goals, customs, family backgrounds, and a variety of other factors. As a result, "a conflict is a mismatch of aims or values between two or more participants in a relationship, associated with attempts to dominate each other and hostile attitudes toward each other," as Fisher defines it. Pia and Diez agree, stating that "conflict is a battle or fight between individuals who have competing wants, ideas, beliefs, values, or ambitions."

Resolution

The manner problems or disputes are addressed and brought to a conclusion is referred to as resolution.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

As previously said, the research approach used in this study is, without a doubt, the only way to collect data for this type of paper: reading. As a result, the method of gathering data for this study is also book research, which includes both the treatment of books and the absorbing of knowledge.

3.1 The Steps to Analyze Novel

Characters, as we all know, are the most crucial aspect of any tale or novel. They have the ability to propel the storyline and tale ahead. Typically, the author will use the character to develop the story's topic. It is one of the most studied aspects of literature since we can perceive the author's aim via the characters. When we are going to analyze or do a critical examination of a novel's characters. The processes of analyzing the characters can be stated succinctly as follows:

- First: Identifying the characters
- Second: Describing the characters
- Third: Explaining the characters.

3.2 Data Collection

According to the above explanation, the writer gathers data by reading books, then applying the theory of how to analyze novels to recognize the characters in three novels, the narrative, the locations, the topic, and other factors that impact the story's growth. The authors employ qualitative research to obtain data since the primary goal of the study is to understand the personalities and how they are impacted by their surroundings.

The authors of this study employ library research as a method of data collection. As a result, the authors read the three novels described above, as well as a few more books that corroborate the hypothesis. These three novels will be the focus of the analysis.

The data was gathered from three of Hardy's novels: *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *The Return of the Native*, and *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, as previously indicated.

IV. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Far from the Madding Crowd

The debate of the novels will take place in the order in which they were published, as previously stated. As a result, *Far from the Madding Crowd* is discussed first. In the spring of 1873, Hardy began writing on this novel. Critics see this novel as a work of amazing assurance and a key achievement by the author. This novel, on the other hand, began as a series of serials in *Cornhill*, and it is filled with the joy and confidence of a writer who has been granted the incredible chance to create a serial tale.

Gabriel Oak is first introduced to us in Chapter 1 of the tale, with his typical traits of simplicity. Hardy seeks to persuade the audience that Gabriel Oak is concerned about his fellow humans and capable of assessing them. The narrative continues with a fortuitous encounter between Gabriel Oak and the female protagonist, Bathsheba Everdene. Oak continues the encounter by studying the girl, and the girl saves Oak from the flames. Oak falls

in love with the girl and finally proposes to her, but she declines and vows to never ask Bathsheba again.

Major characters will be covered in this section. However, one character will be mentioned since he or she plays an important role in the plot's progression. Fanny Robin is the character in question. The characters will be explored in terms of their physical appearance as well as their importance in the plot. They are a. Bathsheba Everdene, who is a mixed-race lady. She is powerful, yet she can be fragile at times; she is intelligent, but she can also be thoughtless and impetuous. b. Gabriel Oak is a powerful and solid tree, as his name says. He is a really honest and faithful person, yet he may be so honest that he comes off as foolish and hurtful at times. Gabriel gets rewarded for his loyalty at the end of the narrative. Bathsheba characterizes him as "a really good-looking man" in c. Boldwood. d. Francis Troy, he has a horrible character that not only hurts and destroys other characters but also leads to his unnatural death, shot by Boldwood. g. Fanny Robin; Fanny puts too much faith in a man and suffers as a result. Fanny puts her faith in the wrong guy, Troy, a man without conscience. Troy abandons her and marries her mistress Bathsheba when she surrenders herself to him while pregnant.

- **The Impact of Surroundings towards the Characters**

It has been previously mentioned that surroundings mean the occupants of a tertian area and everything exists in that area. When the impact of surroundings on the characters is discussed, the discussion will be on the influence of the situation of the vicinity on the character, the influence of one character towards the other, and even the character's influence towards him/herself. The situation and condition of a particular area, to a certain extent, will influence the development of one who lives there, which in the long run becomes the custom done by the occupant living there. And as the result of the conflict between he and his conscience and the norms and the tradition of the surroundings, he has to die a tragic death.

4.2 The Return of the Native

This work was released in 1878 and is part of the Wessex Novels series. Because the location of this work is Wessex, it belongs to Hardy's Wessex Novels. On a Saturday in November, the narrative begins with a description of Egdon Heath. It starts with a mystery about a woman whose identity is kept hidden from the reader. When the woman vanishes, a large number of individuals step in to fill her shoes. These folks have come to make the customary Fifth of November bonfire, and as they watch it burn, they discuss of Thomasin, Mrs Yeobright's niece, and Wildeve's wedding that day, as well as the coming of Clym, Mrs Yeobright's son. Thomasin marries Diggory Venn at the end of the novel, and Clym becomes a preacher.

Only the important personalities will be considered in this discussion, as was done previously. There is one minor character, Diggrory Venn, who is discussed since he is regarded to be the plot's connection. The character mentioned here is in a different order from the preceding one. The characters in the current novel are described in order of how important they are to the plot's development. The characters in the narrative are listed below: a. Clement Yeobright (Clym) is a strong-willed man who takes his time making decisions. He may be considered the novel's protagonist, as he is the only local who returns to Egdon Heath from Paris. Eustacia's personality is viewed differently by Clym and his mother. Clym is also unfazed this time. Eustacia Vye: Eustacia Vye is a lovely young woman of mixed race. She perceives herself as superior to and distinct from the young ladies around her. She prefers a glamorous lifestyle. Her life, however, is ruined as a result of this. She is an obstinate young woman who refuses to listen to others' arguments and insists on doing things her way. c. Damon Wildev; he is seen by some as a man who had a promising start in life but has now fallen from grace. He used to be an engineer and is now an innkeeper. This employment, on the other hand, is ideal for him. Wildev's behaviour is just as awful as Eustacia's; he is unfaithful to his wife. His way of life is spontaneous. He never considers the sentiments of others. d. Mrs. Yeobright; Clym's mother is a "well-known respected widow of the area of a long-established family that can only be described as genteel." Despite the fact that her husband is a tiny farmer, she is the daughter of a curate. As a result, she is well-liked in her community. e. Thomasin Yeobright, who is nice, youthful, and innocent yet is subjected to harsh treatment due to her circumstances. In both her opinions and her demeanor, she is fairly ordinary and conventional.

The Impact of Surroundings on the Characters

It has been stated that one's surroundings (man, condition, and scenario, see prior debate on this topic) have a significant influence on one's personality. Consider Mrs. Yeobright, who, although being impoverished herself, values materialistic achievement above all else. Riches, like the underprivileged in general, are always appreciated. As a result, someone's health may have an influence on their enjoyment for specific things. As a result, she has a disagreement with her son about not only money achievement but also assessing a decent lady to make a good bride.

In general, the young and elderly generations have opposing perspectives on several issues. Because of the disparity in time periods, such things occur. And as time passes, things change as well. As a result of changes in the condition and situation of the atmosphere of the place, both because of outside influence or the impact of social change occurring within the environment of the place concerned or the change of the people of the related place, customs, traditions, and viewpoints may change. Eustacia's influence stems from within herself. She might be suffering from a personality disorder. She is of mixed ancestry. She feels different

from everyone else in the neighbourhood, and she even thinks she's better than the other girls since she's a captain's granddaughter. Damon Wildeve is influenced by two things, the first of which is internal. He is the centre of the girl's attention, and he may flirt accordingly. The second is that he is influenced by his surroundings. He works as an innkeeper. And an innkeeper is likely to meet a variety of folks. As a result, Wildeve is the story's black sheep, bearing the brunt of other people's misfortunes as well as his own.

His dishonesty causes him to treat his wife cruelly. His hidden affection for his wife makes Clym sad. Mrs. Yeobright's death is indirectly caused by him, for when she comes to see her son Clym, Eustacia does not answer the door because Wildeve is with her at the time, and Mrs Yeobright has to return home, where she is bitten by an adder and dies. Indirectly, he is also responsible for Eustacia's death. Thomasin is a pleasant young woman who is polite and simple to educate. She has a pleasant personality. She is self-aware, and her life experiences have helped her become a nice young lady and a wonderful wife.

4.3. The Mayor of Casterbridge

The Mayor of Casterbridge is the third novel to be discussed. Fate has a significant influence in the story development of this work, as can be shown later. As a result, this novel is extremely similar to the previous two. The uniqueness of the novel in question will become clear in the following discussion. The narrative begins at the conclusion of a late summer day in 1826, when there is a market at Weydon Priors in Upper Wessex. Henchard is accompanied by his wife Susan and their daughter Elizabeth-Jane to the market. Henchard becomes intoxicated in the market and, while inebriated, offers his young wife for sale to the highest bidder.

Characters will be covered for this novel based on their chronological appearance, with just the main characters being mentioned. All of the personalities will be examined in the following order: Michael Henchard is a strong and dynamic individual. He has redeeming features, but they are starkly contrasted with his negative traits. He is honest and generous, and he wants to make up for what he has done to Susan, but he is also impetuous and impulsive when dealing with others. b.Susan; Susan's personality is a little hazy. She is uncomplicated and naive. Susan's character may be ambiguous on design by Hardy in order to keep the attention on Henchard. Susan has suffered an outrage which is difficult to put with. c. Elizabeth-Jane; a strong girl who, despite poverty and the loss of her father Newton and mother Susan, dedicates herself to education and self-improvement. Donald Farfrae is a young Scotsman who is fragile and underweight. Despite this, he is charming, witty, and has a great sense of humour. Donald Farfrae is a savvy businessman who understands how to pique the interest of others. Donald's character can be compared to Henchard's in that he cannot truly accommodate a grudge or desire for vengeance. e. Lucetta Templeman (Le Sueur); she may be called flighty, flirty, and indiscreet, and such a character fits Elizabeth-

Jane. Her character pales in comparison to Elizabeth- Jane's. Clothing, comfort, styles, and sophisticated light joking are constantly on her mind. She becomes quite snooty after marrying Donald Farfrae, the mayor of Casterbridge. In a nutshell, she lacks personality depth. f.Newson; Susan and Elizabeth are familiar with his character. He is a pleasant, joyful man, she says of him. He has a forgiving attitude, as evidenced by the fact that he does not penalise Henchard for lying to him. When he leaves without even visiting the grave, he demonstrates his other trusting character. He is, nonetheless, considerate to others. The narrative of his being lost at sea is a benign ruse to allow Susan to return to Henchard. Jopp, G. Jopp is a bleak character with no wit or business acumen. He seeks vengeance and delights in seeing an adversary suffer. His role in the narrative is to serve as a villain who acts as a conduit for other villains.

Only the current novel, out of the three examined, specifies the year. As a result, the novel's location is indicated from the outset: "before the nineteenth century had reached one-third of its span." The novel's only distinction is this. This work also depicts the rural life of the Wessex countryside in terms of setting. Casterbridge (which forms the novel's principal centre), Durnover Moor, Budmouth, Weydon Fair, Bristol, London, Cahring Cross, and Weather burry are also referenced. As a result, certain locations described in prior novels are referenced once again.

- **The Impact of Surroundings towards the Characters**

The plot takes place in 1826, and the backdrop is the Wessex countryside. Of course, the situation was substantially different back then than it is now. And people's attitudes, as well as their manner of life, are not the same. Henchard, for example, is a relatively young spouse, as stated in the text. Even at that time, marriage at a young age was frowned upon. It can't be justified. Because of their immaturity and lack of experience, young men are not wise enough to make decisions and find it difficult to find any way out in difficult situations. In Henchard's instance, he is unhappy and laments being too young to be a husband, and when he believes his marriage is failing, he blames his wife, and when he is intoxicated, he eventually sells his wife, but according to his wife, this is not the first time Henchard has treated her unfairly.

Susan, who is too young to be a wife, is at a loss for what to do in a crisis. The connection between husband and wife is viewed differently by various people. Wives are viewed as commodities that may be purchased and sold. As a result, Susan follows the buyer after being sold since she needs someone to rely on. As Elizabeth-Jane grows older, the passage of time changes and diverges from that of her mother, Susan. Elizabeth-Jane understands that each person's life is in his or her own hands. If someone wants to improve their life, they must first alter themselves. As a result, Elizabeth-Jane decides to learn in order to better herself. While Henchard's success as mayor may have been owing to luck, Farfrae is a different story. Farfrae became mayor as a result of his hard work and intelligence.

V. CONCLUSIONS

After studying three of Hardy's works, the authors conclude that Hardy's novels are worth reading since they depict practically every human emotion and reaction to adversity. Although the subject of the three works reviewed is the inevitability of fate, no matter how hard one tries to prevent it. It is because of the environment, the people who already have strong opinions and opposing wills, but thanks to Hardy's skillful writing talent, the story develops into beautiful, interesting plots, in the sense that the reader can easily follow the story and recollect the course of the story after reading the novels.

In terms of setting, Hardy chooses the same locale in all three novels: The Wessex Countryside. And Hardy has proven that he is a superb novelist with his portrayal of the landscape. Hardy skillfully fits each of the characters to their background – either their personal past or their educational background – which the reader may deduce from the way they talk, the comments of one character to another, or the author's own description. In conclusion, the writer might state that Hardy is a wonderful novelist and that the books mentioned are excellent works of fiction.

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