

Role of Art in Shaping Individual Identity in H.G. Wells' "The Island of Dr. Moreau" from Perspective of Social Construction of Identity Theory

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Abstract

This analysis explores the role of art in shaping individual identity in H.G. Wells' novel "The Island of Dr. Moreau". It is based on the social construction of identity theory, which supposes that identity is constructed through social and cultural interactions. This study aims to understand how art influences self-perceptions and social relationships. It asks how to connect ideas about identity, art, and relationships. It draws conclusions based on our analysis. It sheds light on how art can both empower and control individuals. This analysis examines how art forms the identity of the individual and contributes to the construction of self and social relationships. It examines how ideas are connected to apply the social construction of identity theory. This study reveals the ways in which art reflects and shapes societal norms and values, influencing individual identity. The findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics between art, identity, and society and have implications for understanding the role of art in shaping individual and collective identity.

Keywords: Art, Identity, Social Construction, H.G. Wells, The Island of Dr. Moreau, Literary Analysis

دور الفن في تشكيل الهوية الفردية في رواية "جزيرة الدكتور مورو" لهربرت جورج ويلز من منظور البناء الاجتماعي لنظرية الهوية

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المخلص

يستكشف هذا التحليل دور الفن في تشكيل الهوية الفردية في رواية "جزيرة الدكتور مورو" للكاتب هربرت جورج ويلز انطلاقاً من نظرية البناء الاجتماعي للهوية، التي تفترض أن الهوية تُبنى من خلال التفاعلات الاجتماعية والثقافية، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى فهم كيفية تأثير الفن على تصورات الذات والعلاقات الاجتماعية. وتبحث في كيفية تشكيل الفن للهوية في الرواية، وتتساءل عن كيفية ربط الأفكار حول الهوية والفن والعلاقات، وتستخلص استنتاجات بناءً على تحليلنا. كما تُلقي الضوء على كيفية تمكين الفن للأفراد والتحكم بهم في آنٍ واحد. ويبحث هذا التحليل في كيفية تشكيل الفن للهوية الفردية ومساهمته في بناء الذات والعلاقات الاجتماعية، ويتساءل عن كيفية تطبيق نظرية البناء الاجتماعي للهوية. وتكشف هذه الدراسة عن الطرائق التي يعكس بها الفن المعايير والقيم المجتمعية ويشكلها، مؤثراً على الهوية الفردية. وتساهم نتائج هذه الدراسة في فهم أعمق للديناميكيات المعقدة بين الفن والهوية والمجتمع، ولها آثار على فهم دور الفن في تشكيل الهوية الفردية والجماعية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الفن، الهوية، البناء الاجتماعي، هربرت جورج ويلز، جزيرة الدكتور مورو، التحليل الأدبي.

1. Introduction

H.G. Wells' novel *The Island of Dr. Moreau* is a thought-provoking work that explores the concept of identity and how it is shaped by society and culture [1]. The story follows Edward Prendick, a man who finds himself on an island where the scientist Dr. Moreau is conducting experiments to create human-like animals. This raises questions about what it means to be human and how identity is constructed. According to social construction of identity theory, our sense of self is shaped by our social interactions and the world around us [2]. In the novel, art plays a significant role in shaping identity and challenging our understanding of humanity.

The island setting provides a unique backdrop for exploring the complexities of identity formation. Dr. Moreau's experiments blur the lines between humans and animals, challenging the notion of a fixed human identity. This blurring of boundaries raises important questions about the nature of humanity and the impact of scientific experimentation on individual identity. Through Prendick's experiences, the novel shows how art can reflect and shape societal norms and values.

Art has the power to shape our understanding of the world and ourselves [3]. In *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, art is used to explore the complexities of human identity and challenge readers to think critically about the nature of humanity. The novel itself can be seen as a work of art that reflects and shapes societal norms and values. Through its exploration of identity, the novel provides a commentary on the social and cultural context in which it was written.

The social construction of identity theory suggests that our identities are shaped by the social norms, values, and expectations of the society in which we live [3]. This theory posits that identity is not fixed, but rather it is constructed through our interactions with others and the social context in which we live. According to Berger and Luckmann, "the reality of everyday life is taken for granted as reality" [2]. This highlights the ways in which our understanding of reality is shaped by our social context and the meanings we assign to it. The social construction of identity theory is based on the idea that reality is constructed through social interactions and shared meanings [2]. This theory emphasizes the importance of language, culture, and social context in shaping our understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

The character of Dr. Moreau is particularly significant in this context. His experiments can be seen as a form of artistic expression, shaping and molding the creatures on the island to fit his own vision of humanity. This raises questions about the role of the artist in shaping identity and the impact of art on our understanding of the world. By examining the role of art in shaping identity in the novel, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between art, identity, and society.

This study will examine how art shapes identity in the novel and how it reflects and shapes societal norms and values. By applying the social construction of identity theory, one can gain a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between art, identity, and society. The study's findings will contribute to our understanding of how art influences individual identity and social relationships. It will also highlight the significance of art in understanding human identity and experience.

The significance of this study lies in its exploration of the complex relationships between art, identity, and society in *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. By examining the role of art in shaping identity in the novel, one can gain a nuanced understanding of the ways in which art reflects and shapes societal norms and values, and how individual identity and social relationships is influenced. This understanding can provide valuable insights into the role of art in shaping our understanding of the world and ourselves.

2. Methodology

This study examines the role of art in shaping identity in *The Island of Dr. Moreau* through a close reading of the text. It asks how art influences self-perceptions and social relationships, and whether it empowers or controls individuals. The study shows how art reflects and shapes societal norms and values, contributing to individual identity by applying the social construction of identity theory. This approach provides new insights into the complex relationship between art, identity, and society in the novel.

3. Literature review

Many authors and writers write about this novel and discuss it from different prescriptive. In Bowen, R. *Science, Myth, and Fiction in HG Wells's Island of Dr. Moreau*. Bowen explores how Wells uses myth and science fiction in *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. He argues that Wells used these elements to examine contemporary scientific and philosophical issues, such as human nature and evolution. Bowen notes that the novel combines science and myth to create a critical vision of modern society [4]. However, some critics have pointed out that Bowen's emphasis on the theoretical framework occasionally obscures the novel's plot and character growth. A more balanced examination of the text's literal components could yield a more thorough analysis, even though his mythological and scientific models provide insightful information.

Krumm, [15] "*The Island of Dr Moreau*", or *The Case of Devolution*, Krumm examines the theme of devolution in "*The Island of Dr. Moreau*". He argues that the novel presents a critical view of scientific and technological progress, suggesting that evolution can be a reversible process. Krumm notes that the novel explores issues of identity and humanity in the face of scientific change. Nonetheless, some academics have criticized Krumm's methodology for possibly ignoring the Beast Folk's regression's symbolic meaning. Glendening, for example, offers a depressing description of the human predicament by arguing that the Beast Folk stand for the instability between the natural world and humanity. Krumm's analysis might overlook the novel's remark on the frailty of human civilization and the Beast Folk's metamorphosis if it concentrates solely on the literal misreading of evolutionary theory.

Harris, [6] *Vivisection, The Culture of Science, and Intellectual Uncertainty in The Island of Doctor Moreau*. Harris explores the role of vivisection in "*The Island of Dr. Moreau*". He argues that Wells used vivisection as a symbol of the scientific culture of the time, and notes that the novel examines issues of intellectual uncertainty and moral anxiety associated with scientific progress.

Some critics contend that Harris's essay may overemphasize the Gothic themes at the expense of other thematic issues, despite the fact that it offers insightful analysis of the novel's engagement with scientific ethics. For example, some readings contend that the book also touches on racial inequities, colonialism, and the brittleness of human identity—topics that Harris's thesis does not thoroughly examine. Furthermore, Harris might ignore the novel's larger philosophical queries about the nature of mankind and the repercussions of playing god by concentrating mostly on the moral ramifications of vivisection.

Christensen, [17] *The "Bestial Mark" of Race in The Island of Dr. Moreau*. Christensen explores the role of the "bestial mark" in representing race in H.G. Wells' *"The Island of Dr. Moreau"*. He argues that Wells used the bestial mark as a symbol of racial difference and discrimination in the late 19th century. Christensen notes that the novel examines issues of racial identity and discrimination through the characters of the Beast Folk. However, some criticisms of Christensen's methodology imply that his emphasis on racial discourse can obscure other important issues in the book, like the critique of colonialism and the moral ramifications of scientific experimentation. Even though racism is unquestionably a major issue, Wells's writing may be better understood if a more comprehensive analysis incorporates these other topics.

The current research *"The Role of Art in Shaping Individual Identity in H.G. Wells' The Island of Dr. Moreau' through the Lens of Social Construction of Identity Theory"* introduces new insights into the relationship between art and identity. It examines how Dr. Moreau uses art to change animals into human-like creatures, and how this affects their identities and relationships. It uses simple ideas to understand how art influences identity. This research presents a distinct viewpoint in contrast to earlier investigations. It highlights the significance of artistic expression and its influence on identity formation. In order to illustrate the performative nature of identity and the ways in which external factors, such as art and social expectations, contribute to the construction of the self, the study applies the theory of the social construction of identity to analyze how Dr. Moreau's artistic endeavors, specifically his attempts to sculpt and shape "monster-humans," function as metaphors for the larger societal processes that shape individual identities. This viewpoint emphasizes how identity is performative and how the self is constructed via the influence of outside factors like art and social norms. In contrast to previous research, this viewpoint emphasizes the relationship between art and identity, offering a sophisticated interpretation of the novel's reflections on the tenacity of human nature and the importance of artistic and cultural factors on individual identity.

4. Social Construction of Identity Theory

According to Social Identity Theory, a person's social identity is derived from their knowledge of belonging to a social category or group [8]. A social group is defined as a set of individuals who share a common social identification or view themselves as members of the same social category. Through self-categorization, individuals classify themselves in particular ways in relation to other social categories or classifications [9]. The self-categorization process produces an accentuation of perceived similarities between the self and other in-group members, and an accentuation of perceived differences between the self and out-group members [8]. The social comparison process further enhances self-esteem by selectively applying the accentuation effect to dimensions that result in self-enhancing

outcomes for the self [10]. Specifically, one's self-esteem is enhanced by evaluating the in-group and the out-group on dimensions that lead the in-group to be judged positively and the out-group to be judged negatively [11].

According to Abrams et. al [8], the social identity is rooted in group membership, where individuals define themselves through social categorization. This process involves self-categorization and social comparison, leading to an emphasis on in-group similarities and out-group differences. As noted by Turner et al. [11], early work on social identity included emotional and psychological aspects, while later research separated self-categorization from self-esteem and commitment components [10]. Ultimately, social comparison enhances self-esteem by favorably evaluating the in-group over the out-group.

People's identities are shaped by the social categories they belong to, such as their race, gender, or occupation [8]. These categories are part of a larger social structure and are defined in relation to other categories. When people interact with others, they recognize and name each other's roles, which come with certain expectations [12]. This process of self-categorization helps people form their identities and understand their place in society.

Identity theory suggests that people's identities are formed by the roles they occupy and the meanings associated with those roles. These meanings and expectations influence behavior and are tied to the control of resources [13]. Identities are composed of self-views that emerge from self-categorization and are shaped by the social structure [12]. Both identity theory and social identity theory recognize that individuals derive their identities from the meanings and expectations of their social context.

5. The Base of Identity

As previously discussed, social identity theory and identity theory offer distinct perspectives on identity formation. Social identity theory focuses on how people identify with a group (in-group) and compare themselves to others (out-group), leading to consequences like ethnocentrism [11]. In contrast, identity theory emphasizes role-based identities, where individuals act to fulfill role expectations and manage resources. The key difference between the two lies in their basis: social identity emphasizes uniformity among group members, while role identity highlights differences and relationships between roles. When people identify with a group, they tend to share similar perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors with other group members. This uniformity can lead to stereotyped views of their own group and others, as well as a strong attraction to their group [14]. Group members also tend to see themselves as typical of the group and evaluate their group positively [15]. In simpler terms, being part of a group can shape how we think, feel, and behave, often leading to a sense of unity and shared identity with others in the group. This can influence how we perceive ourselves and others, and how we evaluate our group as a whole.

When individuals identify with a group, they are more likely to be committed to it, participate in its activities, and feel a sense of unity with other group members [10]. This can lead to a strong sense of belonging and shared identity, even in low-status groups [16]. Group identification can also influence behavior, such as participating in group activities and distinguishing oneself from other groups. Furthermore, high social identification can lead to extreme concurrence in decision-making

groups, known as groupthink, and is a prime basis for participation in social movements. Overall, group-based identities tend to promote uniformity among members [17].

When individuals strongly identify with a group, they are more likely to be committed to it and participate in its activities. This is true even for groups with low status. Group identification can lead to similar behaviors and perceptions among members, such as participating in group culture and distinguishing themselves from others. Furthermore, strong group identification can influence decision-making and motivate people to participate in social movements. Overall, group-based identities promote uniformity among members, which can have various consequences.

According to research, these consequences include greater commitment to the group, participation in group culture, and extreme concurrence in decision-making. Social identification is also a key factor in participation in social movements [18]. When people take on a role, they adopt certain meanings and expectations that shape their behavior and interactions with others. Roles are not uniform, but rather unique and interconnected, requiring negotiation and reciprocity to function effectively. For example, research has shown that leaders need to negotiate their roles with others to feel satisfied and remain in their position [19].

Similarly, roles in marriage require negotiation and adaptation to fulfill expectations. Overall, role identity theory highlights the importance of negotiation and reciprocity in role performance. When people take on roles, they work out their behaviors and meanings with others in the group. This process of negotiation helps build strong connections within the group when individuals' role identities are verified [20]. In role-based identities, individuals interact and negotiate with others who occupy different roles, which shapes the social dynamics within the group [12]. In contrast, group-based identities are characterized by shared perceptions and actions, where individuals may not necessarily interact with each other [11]. Instead, they act in unison because they share the same perceptions. Role-based identities involve reciprocal relationships and negotiation, whereas group-based identities involve parallel actions and shared views.

Role-based identities highlight the unique connections and interactions between individuals in different roles, whereas group-based identities emphasize the shared perceptions and behaviors among group members. By understanding both perspectives, we can see that people are connected to groups in different ways: Organically through shared social identities and mechanically through interconnected role identities [21]. A comprehensive understanding of society requires considering both aspects, as they link individual identities in distinct but related ways. People's identities are shaped by both their group memberships and the roles they play. These two aspects of identity are intertwined and influence each other, making it challenging to separate them analytically or empirically. To fully understand individual identity, it's crucial to consider both group belongingness and role enactment. Furthermore, person identity, which refers to an individual's unique characteristics and goals, is also an essential aspect of overall identity. A general theory of the self must incorporate the complex relationships between group, role, and person identities.

According to researchers, person identity is the categorization of the self as a unique entity, distinct from others. Understanding how these different identities intersect is vital for a comprehensive understanding of the self. A person's identity is composed of unique characteristics that define who they are [8]. This identity interacts with their social identity, which is shaped by group memberships. According to researchers, person identity and social identity are connected and influence each other [22]. Deaux's work suggests that social identities can have both normative and personal aspects. Person

identity can be linked to role identities through shared meanings, and individuals may prioritize maintaining their sense of self when role expectations conflict with their person identity. Stets' research highlights the importance of balancing role demands with person identity needs [20]. Overall, person identity plays a crucial role in shaping an individual's experiences and interactions.

Researchers like Deaux (1992) and Stets (1995) have explored the complex relationships between person identity, social identity, and role identity. Their work emphasizes the need to understand how these different identities intersect and influence each other. By examining these connections, we can gain a deeper understanding of human identity and behavior.

Researchers in identity theory investigate how people's social positions influence their identity activation. According to Stryker, commitment to an identity is a crucial factor, with two key aspects: the number of people connected to the identity and the strength of those connections. When people have strong ties to others through an identity, that identity becomes more salient and important to them. Identity theorists also make a distinction between the likelihood of an identity being activated (salience) and the actual performance of that identity (activation). This distinction enables researchers to understand how different factors, such as social context and commitment, impact identity activation. Furthermore, identity theorists consider how multiple identities are prioritized in a salience hierarchy, which determines which role a person will enact in a given situation when more than one role may be appropriate [23].

Researchers can gain a deeper understanding of how identities are shaped and expressed in different social contexts, by examining the relationships between commitment, salience, and activation, the concept of a salience hierarchy highlights the complex and dynamic nature of identity, where individuals navigate multiple roles and identities in various situations.

6. Role of Art in Shaping Individual Identity in The Island of Dr. Moreau

The Island of Dr. Moreau is a book that asks big questions about who we are and how humans and animals are different the researcher looks at how art helps shape the characters' identities in the book. We will connect ideas about identity, art, and relationships, and use examples from the book to support our ideas. The plot started On February 1, 1887, the Lady Fin sank after colliding with another ship at 1°S, 107°W. Eleven months later, on January 5, 1888, Edward Prendick was found in a small boat at 5°3'S, 101°W. People thought he was crazy because of the strange story he told about what happened to him. He claimed to have no memory of anything after leaving the Lady Fin. His case was discussed by psychologists as an example of temporary amnesia. His nephew found a story among his papers and decided to publish it. The story is uncertain, but some facts support it. A ship named the Ipecacwana, captained by John Davis, had animals on board, including a puma, and disappeared in the same area where Edward Prendick was found.

The HMS Scorpion reached Noble Island in 1891, and a party of sailors landed there, but they found no living creatures except for a strange white moth, some pigs and rabbits, and some strange mice. No specimens of these creatures were preserved, which makes the story uncertain in its most important details. One important perspective in this analysis is Identity formation. In The Island of Dr. Moreau, the creatures struggle with their identities due to their transformations and interactions. The quote "You in the boat" shows a moment where a creature realizes the difference between itself and humans, like Prendick. This realization makes the creature question its own identity.

The quote highlights how the creature's recognition of Prendick as human affects its self-perception. It starts to think about what it means to be human or not, and this reflection shapes its understanding of itself. "You in the boat" [1] shows a moment where a creature realizes the difference between itself and humans, like Prendick. This realization makes the creature question its own identity. The quote highlights how the creature's recognition of Prendick as human affects its self-perception. It starts to think about what it means to be human or not, and this reflection shapes its understanding of itself.

Dr. Moreau's experiments raise fundamental questions about human nature. He struggles to define what makes humans "human," blurring the line between humanity and bestiality as he conflates "upward striving" with primal instincts. Moreau's methods are marked by violence and control, using pain to try to "burn out" irrational aspects of his creations and create purely rational beings, reflecting his desire for dominance. Ultimately, Moreau acknowledges an elusive, uncontrollable aspect of human nature that defies his understanding and manipulation, highlighting the complexity and mystery of human existence [4].

Another quotation, "The leopard-man was still nearly as agile as a cat, and his strength was sufficient to enable him to rend and tear in a manner most hideous to see." [1], the quote describes the Leopard Man's physical abilities, showing he's still strong and agile like a cat. This highlights his hybrid identity, caught between his animal nature and human-like traits. He's torn between two worlds, struggling to balance his instincts with the human-like behaviors he's been taught. This relates to the theme of identity and the blurred lines between human and animal. The Leopard Man's struggle reflects the challenges of being caught between two identities, and the tension that comes with it.

The Beast Folk have moved away from their natural animal behaviors, adopting human-like traits. This transformation impacts their self-perception, making them question their identity. Described as "half-human, half-animal," the Beast Folk struggle to reconcile their mixed nature. This internal conflict affects their sense of self, making identity formation a challenging process.

The Beast Folk's experiences illustrate the complexities of identity formation. Their struggles to balance human and animal traits show how identity is shaped by external influences (Dr. Moreau's teachings) and internal conflicts (natural instincts vs. learned behaviors). This dynamic highlights the ongoing process of self-discovery and adaptation in forming one's identity. The Beast Folk have moved away from their natural animal behaviors, adopting human-like traits. This transformation impacts their self-perception, making them question their identity. "The more I saw of these grotesque creatures, the more I realized how completely they had abandoned their animal instincts." [1] - This quote highlights the Beast Folk's transformation and its impact on their self-perception.

Described as "half-human, half-animal," the Beast Folk struggle to reconcile their mixed nature. This internal conflict affects their sense of self, making identity formation a challenging process. Krumm, Pascale points that *The Island of Doctor Moreau* stands out due to its complexity and moral depth. Unlike his other works, which fit neatly into science fiction, this novel explores biology, physiology, and evolution, making it harder to categorize. Instead of typical sci-fi themes, it blends elements of robinsonade, gothic, horror, naturalistic, and detective stories, with a unique focus on "mythobiology." The novel's harsh and brutal storyline sparked criticism from Wells' contemporaries, setting it apart from his other works. Its complexity and multi-faceted themes make it a challenging yet thought-provoking read. [5]

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Another aspect is relationships and social dynamics which presents through the Beast Folk interact with each other and Dr. Moreau, and what does this reveal about their identities and social structures. The Beast Folk's interactions with each other and Dr. Moreau reveal a complex social hierarchy. Dr. Moreau's influence shapes their behavior and identity, as seen in the quote "Eat! Eat Man's food, now." This illustrates how the creatures are conditioned to follow Dr. Moreau's rules, adopting human-like behaviors and reinforcing their subordinate status. The social dynamics highlight the creatures' struggle for identity, caught between their animalistic nature and the imposed human-like characteristics, with Dr. Moreau's authority dictating their place in the hierarchy.

These quotes touch on themes of nature vs. nurture and the ethics of creation. "He was still a beast, a thing that had once been a leopard, and the law had not changed him." [1] - This quote illustrates the Leopard Man's place in the social hierarchy on the island and his ongoing struggle with his animal nature. The first quote suggests that despite attempts to civilize the Leopard Man, his inherent nature remains unchanged. This raises questions about the extent to which environment and conditioning can shape human (or human-like) behavior.

The role of the creator presents in the novel, "The thing before me was no longer a beast, but a man, a man who had once been a beast" [1]. Furthermore, "They are made in the image of men, but they are not men" [1] challenges the idea of humanity, asking if it's physical form or something deeper. Dr. Moreau's influence shapes the Beast Folk's identities through hypnosis and indoctrination, teaching them human-like behaviors and phrases like "Are you not men and women?" [1]. This control limits their autonomy and agency, restricting their freedom and conditioning their behavior. The tension between Dr. Moreau's teachings and the Beast Folk's natural instincts highlights the struggle for independence, raising questions about the ethics of control and manipulation in the complex relationship between creator and creation.

The Beast Folk interact with each other and Prendick in a complex way, with Dr. Moreau in charge. When Prendick meets the simian creature, he notices it's somewhat human-like. This shows the creatures are caught between being animals and humans, with Dr. Moreau controlling their world and dictating their behavior. He was a man, then, at least as much of a man as Montgomery's attendant." [1]. The creatures are unsure of their place in this hierarchy, and Prendick's presence makes things more complicated for them as they try to understand themselves and their roles. "The Hunting of the Beast Folk." [1]. (when Prendick meets the simian creature). Also, he says: "I had been too confident in my power over the Beast Folk." [1] - This quote highlights Dr. Moreau's reflections on his creation of the Beast Folk and the limitations of his control over them. Dr. Moreau's realization that his creations

are not entirely under his control. This serves as a commentary on the responsibilities and limitations that come with playing God or creating life. It implies that creators must acknowledge the autonomy of their creations and the unpredictability of their behavior.

Dr. Moreau's presence shaped the Beast Folk's identities, and without him, they're left to find their own way: "Moreau had gone, and with him the secret of their existence" [1]. The Beast Folk relied on Dr. Moreau's control, and without it, they're losing direction: "The Law, the voice of Moreau, was beginning to fade" [1]. The quotes also raise questions about what makes us human, whether someone's past defines their present, and if a being can change and become something new. Harris Mason indicates that Wells's *The Island of Doctor Moreau* contributes to the Gothic literature, despite Wells's usual approach to science fiction. The story's horror and unpleasantness are attributed to the theme of pain, particularly through Moreau's practice of vivisection. The ambiguity surrounding Moreau's character, whether he's a devoted scientist or a madman driven by sadistic tendencies, adds to the story's oppressive atmosphere and uncertain ending. The author argues that this ambiguity is key to understanding the story's deep ambivalence towards science and its Gothic horror elements [6].

The relationships and social dynamics introduced through the Beast Folk's interactions with each other and Dr. Moreau reveal a complex social hierarchy. "The Beast Folk were divided into two classes, the one being those who were still almost entirely animal, and the other those who had advanced further towards humanity." [1] highlights the complexity of defining and measuring humanity. Meanwhile, their obedience to Dr. Moreau, driven by fear rather than love. Dr. Moreau's influence shapes their behavior and identity, as seen in the quote "Eat! Eat Man's food, now." [1] This illustrates how the creatures are conditioned to follow Dr. Moreau's rules, adopting human-like behaviors and reinforcing their subordinate status. The social dynamics highlight the creatures' struggle for identity, caught between their animalistic nature and the imposed human-like characteristics, with Dr. Moreau's authority dictating their place in the hierarchy.

Christensen, presents that in H.G. Wells' novel *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, there's a concept called the "bestial mark" that's being used to explore ideas of racial difference and discrimination. The story features creatures called the Beast Folk, who are half-human, half-animal. The "bestial mark" refers to physical characteristics that distinguish these creatures from humans. Christensen argues that Wells used this concept to comment on the racial prejudices of his time. In essence, the "bestial mark" symbolizes how people used physical differences to justify discriminatory attitudes towards certain groups. The novel raises questions about what it means to be human and how societal hierarchies are constructed based on physical characteristics. By exploring these themes through the lens of science fiction, Wells critiques the racial ideologies prevalent during the late 19th century. [7]

Another incident the Beast Folk's existence challenges traditional notions of identity and humanity, while Dr. Moreau's control raises questions about free will and autonomy. "They obeyed Moreau, not because they loved him, but because they feared him." [1]. The Beast Folk's existence challenges traditional notions of identity and humanity, while Dr. Moreau's control raises questions about free will and autonomy. It presents insights into the human condition and the complexities of existence. Wells' raise important philosophical questions about human nature and society. "The Beast Folk were gathered together, and I could see the fear in their eyes as they looked at me" [1] highlights the tension and mistrust between the Beast Folk and Prendick, illustrating the complexities of relationships and power dynamics. Meanwhile, "They were beginning to relapse, to revert to their former state" [1] suggests that the Beast Folk's social structures are fragile and prone to collapse, raising questions about

the stability of artificial societies and the power of primal instincts. Together, these quotes invite us to reflect on the nature of identity, society, and the human condition.

7. Conclusion

This study introduces through this novel how societal norms, scientific experimentation, and the blurring of boundaries between human and animal challenge the protagonist's understanding of self. The island's inhabitants, the Beast Folk, are creations of Dr. Moreau's scientific artistry, embodying the tension between nature and nurture. Their existence raises questions about the stability of identity and the impact of external forces on self-perception. Through this narrative, Wells suggests that identity is not fixed, but rather a dynamic construct shaped by societal, scientific, and artistic forces. The novel implies that our understanding of self is influenced by the world around us, and that identity is subject to multiple interpretations and reconstructions. In a philosophical sense, the novel concludes that identity is a fluid, ever-changing entity, shaped by the complex interplay between individual experiences, societal norms, and external influences. As the protagonist Prendick grapples with his own identity, he comes to realize that the boundaries between human and animal, self and other, are blurred, leading to a profound sense of disorientation and questioning. Ultimately, the novel posits that identity is a multifaceted, context-dependent construct, and that our understanding of self is forever tied to the world around us. This perspective echoes the philosophical idea that "existence precedes essence," suggesting that our identity is not predetermined, but rather emerges through our experiences and interactions with the world.

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