

Depiction of Human Brutality in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*

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المستخلص

تصوير الوحشية البشرية في رواية وليام كولدنك "أمير الذباب" يعد تصوير الوحشية البشرية قضية جوهرية في الحياة الاجتماعية وإن هذا البحث يمثل تصويراً للوحشية البشرية في رواية وليام كولدنك "أمير الذباب" وقد حاول الكاتب بناء عالم سردي موازي لتحقيق الهدف الرئيسي كما واطهر الكاتب الوحشية والطبيعة البشرية الأساسية في عصره من خلال اختيار تلاميذ المدارس مما كشف عن طبيعتهم كجزء من المجتمع وقد كان الهدف الرئيسي للكاتب هو إيصال رسالته القائلة "مثل هذه الأفعال كما صورها في روايته مشابهة للطبيعة البشرية في عصره" كما اعتمدت هذه الدراسة على تحليل نسبي للنص وكيفية استخدام كولدنك المجاز للكشف عن الطبيعة البشرية وبعد قراءة معمقة للرواية توصل الكاتب إلى أن كاتب هذه الرواية قد صور لنا الوحشية الإنسانية والحيوانية في الطبيعة البشرية كما ركز الكاتب على مساحات واسعة للشخصيات والأحداث والأماكن وأخير كشفت هذه الدراسة عن أن الوحشية والقسوة سكنت الإنسان ووجدانه ثم ظهرت بغياب القوانين والعوامل الحضارية كما أن هذه الدراسة مثلت دعوة لقراءة هذه الرواية ومعرفة الطبيعة البشرية

Abstract

The depiction of human brutality is a fundamental issue in social life. This article represents an investigation of how human brutality was depicted in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. It is an important to mention that the writer attempts to construct a parallel narrative world to suit the major purpose. The writer exhibits the basic brutality and human nature of his time by choosing the schoolboys which unveiled the brutality nature of those schoolboys as part of human society. The main goal of the writer is to convey his message saying that "such actions as portrayed in the novel resembled the savage and brutal nature of the men of his time". The methodology that utilized in this study was relative analysis of the text to how Golding employed allegory to detect the nature of human being. After a deep reading of the novel, the researcher got that the writer of this novel depicted brutality, savagery and animalistic of human nature. The writer is also confirmed a broad area for characters, events, and setting as well. Finally, the study revealed the fact that savagery and brutality lived with man and existed inside the heart. Then they appeared in a lack of laws and civilized factors. The paper represents an invitation to read this novel for the sake of understanding human nature.

Keywords: brutality, savagery, civilization, animalism, Lord of the Flies.

1.1 Introduction

William's novel *Lord of the Flies* showed the subversive social facts of his contemporary time (Spitz, 1970) and interrogated human civilization by manifesting a depressed picture of man's relationships (Zhu, 2020). It also showed the contradictory of human civilization by showing the duality between internal and external appearances (Watt, 2014) and forming an image of ill deeds done by human wars (Bloom, 2008). William Golding had a personal experience of his era, as he was a worrier and observed how Hitler motivated inhuman actions in the World War II. However, he would like to generalize such events towards humanity, constructing an imaginative world (Bloom, 2008). The novel introducing general psychology of human. He illustrated novel's theme as "as an attempt to trace the defects of society back to the defects of human nature" The paper argued that Golding portrays human as uncivilized and brutal in the real situation by selecting a group of kids on the isolated Island. They are isolated from law and order. He employs the literary devices for showing such human behavior as it

assisted by giving vivid and various layers of human situations associating with political, religious, and moral respects. The main goal is to study and analyze W. Golding's novel to dig deep the literary work and investigate how human brutality was reflected here. The study is going to answer the research question on how human brutality was depicted in *Lord of the Flies*. The current novel was written in the atmosphere of despair and horror due to the World War II. Thus the writer himself witnessed the brutality of human. The horror the writer faced during the war effected his personal imagination and made him create narrative world give to brutal and merciless ways of behavior exhibited by the children. So *Lord of the Flies* thematically, has effective connection with violence. *Lord of the Flies* is designated on an Island that has its historical descent in Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, Swift *Culliver's Travels*. The novel and the writer provides us actual picture of what modern criminologists call childish delinquency. The novel discussed thematic connection with the problematic issues of brutality and evil as part of human circumstances. The group that led by Jack and his hunters represented the highest level of brutality as well as paganism. On the other hand, Simon who is characterized as a saint figure in the novel, represents Christianity.

Literature Review

Lord of the Flies has become a wide area of literary discussion since it deals with the conflict between savagery and civilization as well as human conditions. Many critics and studies dealt with the novel from different aspects. For example, Chang (2021) who claims that the absence of women on the Island made human exploit both nature and women together. The male-dominated society imposed the authority by using patriarchal ideology. The study by Roy (2023) clarified the absence of women in the novel as their incapability to subvert the atrocities. Singh (1997) interpreted the novel as a description of the values family by showing their failure of boys to preserve civilization and the absence of their parents, especially mothers, on the island of the Pacific Ocean. Another study by Alnajm (2015) stated that boys without parental guardianship proceeded towards destruction by showing the devastating states of children there. Mayborn (2021) claimed that William Golding's portrayal of the chaotic lives of the boys without parents freely on the island reflected the anarchy of his contemporary era. Furthermore, AL Saidi (2012) stating that Golding shed the light on the conflict between savagery and civilization by showing the clash between the two different groups of characters, Jack and Ralph. The writer has a certain message is to show the actual human behavior. Also Chen (2021) mentioned that Golding wanted to give us the division of human as civilized and uncivilized by show both qualities that co-existing within man. Jiang (2022) discussed that human bad deeds and behavior were behind the destruction of a relationship between man and nature through the depicting the enormous destruction and the conflict of the dwellers of the island. This similar to the study that had been done by Anoosheh and Oroskhan (2018) who told us that the reason behind the degeneration of the schoolboys was due to the lack of their moral and spiritual values in them. Miyanga (2017) claimed that *Lord of the Flies* was the only area to show the evil of the wars and human weaknesses at that time. This study has similar tone to Fitzgerald and Kayser (1992) who interpreted Golding's literary work as the depiction of a rotten society because of the darkness of soul and the lack of innocence. Van Vuuren (2004) argued that *Lord of the Flies* displayed a depressed picture of post-war pessimism and the failure of human in establishing human-made law. Naylor et al (2022) claimed that there were cunning and selfish people in the society and used technology for sharing such issues in their circle. Gholamhossinzadeh (2019) clarified that the writer manifested the two contrasted worlds under the leadership of Ralph and Jack. Moga (2023) showed that Ralph has the sense of humanity. However, Hassan and Sharif (2020) stated that the novel portrayed human lives and society after the World Wars. The novel was discussed as an allegory of biblical human's fall from Eden. Khan, et al (2021) concluded that the conflict in the novel represented a battle between good and evil. Most of the studies discussed certain factor, but the current study is going to focus on the brutality of human being in the novel to represent as the gap of the current study.

Methodology

The current study intentionally chose *Lord of the Flies* as the primary text. It is based on a qualitative research design to interpret William Golding's novel. The study will also use the secondary data that derived from the previous studies such as books, papers, thesis, and journal articles. The purpose of the study is to explore the gap of the study and strength the literary arguments. The study argument that William Golding used literary alternatives in order to depict human brutality as part of human nature. The literary devices in the novel help to analyze multiple layers inside human soul. In the current novel the writer attempted to use literary device like allegory, simile, and metaphor to depict the image of the schoolboys on the remote island and displaying their conflicts, killing, fights and horrors in the absence of law and their parents or civilized system that reflected the

society and human nature through allegory. Before that, one must know some information about an allegory. Allegory is known as narrative, verse, prose where events, characters, and the setting refer the under surface meaning level (Abrams & Harpham, 2014). The above information helps the understanding how the story, events, setting, and the characters the novel are associated with and estimated by secondary layers of meanings. According to (Mayor, 2009) the novel conveys a moral lesson though an allegory. In addition, the allegory facilitated the reader's understanding to reflect human nature at that time. In the same way (Fletcher, 2021. P.2) claimed that the previous studies paved the way to understanding how Golding Depicting human nature that helped this paper to reach the understanding of human brutality in the current novel.

Devastating Fictional World of Schoolboys

Lord of the flies attempts to explore a devastating, fictional world on the island of the Pacific Ocean. The schoolboys divided into two groups and engaged in fighting, hunting, and killing friends which finally guided them into destruction. The boys saved from a crashed plane together on the isolated island. They tried to systemize their ways of life by establishing certain regulations, and orders, but they failed due to the fragmentation of their groups into contradicted teams led by Ralph and Jack. They were free to do what they like and they had no restrictions to practice their own actions on the island. They showed all types of violence and aggressive natures which led them to murder their friends. This gave us an impression that Golding wanted to show us the depiction of chaotic world of the boys against backdrop of the World War II. He showed us the brutality of man in its maximum degrees. They lacked sympathy and depicted animalistic behavior. The characters, setting, and the events showed the secondary meaning and built the moral lesson by manifesting the brutal trait inside human being. For instance, the boys were in this strange place and wished that someone would come and save them. Finally, they set a fire and there was a smoke all around. "Almost at once a thin trickle of smoke rose [...] the flame, nearly invisible At first in that bright sunlight, enveloped a small twig, grew was enriched With color, and reached up to a branch which exploded with a sharp crack. The flame flapped higher and the boys broke into a cheer" (Golding, 1983, p.32). Here the smoke of the fire, and their delight state in such case indicated that they would be very happy in the destruction, it reflected their explicit conflict and fighting, which caused the death of their friends. These findings stratified with the study of Van Vuuren (2004) which claimed that William Golding portrayed post-war pessimism when the story proceeded especially, children led by Jack enjoyed playing with the bloodshed and hunting animals. It was mentioned in the novel: "The boys chattered and danced. The twins continued to grin. There was a Lashing of blood, said Jack, laughing and shuddering "You should have Seen it!" we'll go hunting everyday" (Golding, 1983, p.58). The scene of the blood, their regular hunting, and their dance referred to their wish of nature's destruction. They loved killing animals that reflected their nature of having happiness by killing and watching the scene of blood. It was narrated (kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!) (Golding, 1983, p. 152). The schoolboys started having the meat of the pig, and their lives were changed into the beast. This narration simulated the human nature and social fact of Golding's time, where Hitler in Germany and British empire loved bloodshed. It was mentioned clearly in the novel: "Ralph thrust the conch into Jack's arms [...]. I've called an assembly, said Jack, because of a lot of things. First, you know now, we've seen the beast. We crawled up. We were only a few feet away. The beast sat up and looked At us. I don't know what it does. We don't even know what it is. The beast Comes out of the sea. Out of the dark" (Golding, 1983, pp. 111-112). The above extract referred to the realization of the boys on the island by the existing of the beast within themselves. According to (Bloom, 2008) that animalistic instinct and savagery were existed within the soul of human; however, Hitler in Germany and the British empire planned them into others and committed a massive number of killers. So Jack's followers were engaged in killing their friends. It was mentioned as: The great rock that had killed piggy had bounded into this thicket and Bounced there, right in the center, making a smashed space a few feet in Extent each way. When Ralph had wriggled into this he felt secure and Clever. He sat down carefully among the smashed stems and waited for the Hunt to pass (Golding, 1983, P. 173) Then Jack's group became aggressive by brutalizing and killing friends, and finally, Jack's followers chased Ralph and made him the other target. It was traumatic for him since the island was covered by smoke and fire seeing " a smallish savage standing between him and the rest of the forest, a savage stripped red and while and carrying a spear" (Golding, 1983, p. 176). It was the pig's head that previously Jack and his friends offered to the beast in the forest because they had believed that there is a beast in the forest. The pig head represented Beelzebub who was recognized as the devil.

Symbolic Significance of Novel's Characterization The characters of *Lord of the flies* have some eminent characteristics that make them a fertile area for studies. They become a distinguished example of special features

of humanity nature. "Golding work out his themes employing symbolism" (Michot, 1990, p. 82). Symbolism is one of the most mysterious aspects of the novel. The write employs different characters to show the conflict in the novel. Each of the characters can represent as an allegorical aspect of human nature. All the schoolboys subjected to certain changes in their new setting, and the isolation in the island has affected their life differently. Another massive symbol is the beast which incarnate the power of the boy's fear. They were all fear of something they haven't seen. Jack exploited the fear of the boys as a major source of his power because the goal of Jack is to maintain power by any means. Simon has found the truth that the imaging beast is horrible. Many symbols were implied in the novel. The researchers attempted to use them in different occasions. The three major characters in the novel were Ralph, Piggy, and Simon as well as numbers of schoolboys create a savage human triaged of killing and hunting when they got the chance to enact a perfect life.

Conclusion

It is concluded that Golding's novel, *Lord of the flies*, is a true representation of an allegorical literary work. It indicates many issues in the society treating many problems. The novel is full of richness and complexities because it deals with human nature. Richness and complexities makes the novel deals with various subjects. The conflicts in *Lord of the flies* are demonstrated as a thematic battle between good and evil. It also shows that ethical nature is not inherit in human. Human is a beast but it is curbed by laws. In fact, there is a specific power for evil that exists inside human. Jack represents the side of evil and brutality. The novel depicts the highest level of brutality through the actions of Jack's followers who feel happy to see the scene of blood. Jack reflects the image of evil force, brutality, and hunger for power. Ralph and the naval officer have the idea to rescue human from evil forces. The study overcomes with the fact that the defect of the society back to the defects of man nature.

The desire of savagery inside Jack gives us the evidence of his brutality and the aggressive behavior that he possesses. In addition to that, he has a lack of civilization trend and guardianship showed the brutal nature that made man equals to animals' snatching away all human traits.

The various images and symbols used by the writer shows the educational levels at that time. Thus *Lord of the Flies* provides us with political and historical facts for the life of European after the World War II. It represented the mirror that reflect the image of human reflecting the internal world of human at that time. Golding draws real life where the schoolboys land on the island portraying a contrastive picture of Jack who doesn't wear uniform on the island. He is willing to hunt to show his power and desire of authority on the island.

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