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NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES IN. D. H. LAWRENCE WOMEN IN LOVE

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ABSTRACT

The present study aims to examine D. H. Lawrence's novel Women in Love in term of narrative techniques. Lawrence was an excellent modernist, and he played an important role in American and English modernist literature. Narrative technique has been fully applied in Women in Love. Lawrence wasn't totally patient of the conventional demands of a rigid and coherent plot construction made of a novelist. This article would discuss narrative technique in three aspects: artistic expression, themes and ideological contents.

KEYWORDS: *Women in Love. Narrative techniques. D. H. Lawrence*

INTRODUCTION

D. H. Lawrence, a modern English novelist has always been a dialectical writer, equally accused and defended. In *Women in Love*, Lawrence employs a diverse technique which is opposite to the ordinary to arrange the structure of the novel so as to achieve his objective. It is genuine that the narrative structure of *Women in Love* is sophisticated. On the one hand, it has clear portrayal of narration technique to draw the outline of its theme; on the other hand, it has the psychological description which is unique and has profound symbolism. D. H. Lawrence has been classified as modernist by a large number of analysts, and his work without a doubt played a vital part in improvement in western writing, particularly the work *Women in Love*.

NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES SHOWN IN MODERN ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

One of the basic characteristics in Modernism is to make narrative shape obscure, and the surface structure is in free mess. Consequently, *Women in Love* apparently has modernism features. Through thirty-one chapters and more than four hundred thousand words, the book captured thirty-one slices of main characters' lives instead of narrating either in time sequence or natural development order of events. It seems that the stories are lack of logical interrelated causal relationship, as a matter of fact, the slices consist of a series of stories with counterpoint, which would present fundamental control to the anecdotal structure that with free clutter surface. By reading carefully, readers could figure out lots of separated

scenarios, dispersed and irrelevant, would be inner connected via symbolism contained, and they became the latitude and longitude of deep structure. For example, in Chapter Nine, at the crossing of railway, Gerald tamed a mare in front of Ursula and Gudrun, by this way Gerald showed his courage and power to Gudrun. While in Chapter Fourteen, Gudrun scared off Gerald's bull in a crazy way to respond him. And in Chapter Eighteen, Gerald and Gudrun made concerted efforts in hurting a wild rabbit. Over three scenes were laid in three chapters individually, and there won't be any associations within the surface, but within the profound structure they have a uniform typical meaning. Serious conflict in sub-consciousness of the two had been revealed opportunely. Most untidy scenes in the book supported each other, which made internal structure harmony and showed the planning ability of Lawrence with beautiful thoughts of modernism. Meantime, the loose disordered surface structure performed in the open end of *Women in Love*. The relationship of Gerald and Gudrun ended with Gerald's passing, whereas, Birkin was still on his way to interest to idealize sexual relationship, even he had already married to Ursula and obsessed by emotional conflict with her.

NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES SHOWN IN THEMES

The writers- Published by Atlantis Press 805 the early of last century. They forsaken the general mode of expressing outer world of characters and to put efforts in the real inner world, which would repeal the complicated mentality of westerners. This had been presented in an early work of Lawrence- *Sons and Lovers*, which showed sense of alienation of westerners, as well as reflected how disgusting the reality was. When it came to the peak work – *Women in Love*, Lawrence's reached his high-point in detailed painting the real world. In this work, he endeavored to demonstrate the complicated indefinable inner world to readers. For example, in the first chapter, readers could deeply feel the strong sense of self-awareness of Gudrun. Inner emotions of a tortured soul have been displayed vividly in front of readers, to make us shock for her complicated feelings and tragic experiences. Hence, we could deeply experience the emotions and emotion changes of characters.

NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES SHOWN IN IDEOLOGICAL CONTENTS

Most of modernists have negative attitudes towards modern industry civilization. They thought industry civilization had annihilated rich rurality, and misshaped human opportunity emphatically which made individuals lose their confidence and gotten to be salves of substance with nothingness in their otherworldly world. D. H. Lawrence was also in the horrors of it, and he gave a true picture of broken

scenario in his work *Women in Love*. Lawrence figured out that not only the natural world had been destroyed by industry civilization, but the human natural also been distorted depressively, and all these had been concentrated expressed in the portrait of Gerald. In this book, coal-mine beneficiary Gerald gave up his father's unique adaptable administration strategy, made a arrangement of changes, specifically cutting edge industry administration measures, to persecute works for crushing labor drive till they dead. However, the success of reforming did not bring happiness to Gerald; on the contrary, he was isolated and alienated away from his workers Gerald was filled with emptiness and horrors, and this made him a representative and victim of modern industry civilization. What he advocated was power and position, but on his way to these, he became a body without heart, and died in a world of ice and snow. This precisely what Lawrence attempting to say that industry civilization had suffered people greatly. Within the Lawrence's point of see, human beings ought to be full of vitality, be that as it may, with the sadness acted by industry civilization, , people came cruel and merciless.

SYMBOLISM

Symbolism is very important part of artistic expression and popular among novelists from all periods. Although, traditional symbolic device has definite meanings, and there are always similarities between indication and the one be referred to. But in modern narrative technique, symbolic meanings are hazy obscure, and it is difficult to identify the real messages. Symbolism is always applied to express the complicated inner world of characters by writers, which is a method of composition that could to show their unconscious mental activities. Lawrence found out dark worlds inside humans in his works for readers. In order to make readers observe inner-most thoughts and feel the complicated ineffable real inner world of characters directly, he used a great number of token method, metaphor and symbolism and gave them special implication. The application of above methods could present the ineffable unconscious mental activities visually, and make the work unique symbolic. *Women in Love* is almost covered by image symbols, yet symbolic meaning has become the key point of interpretation. Moon is the most common symbol in Lawrence works, it stands for the power of women. In the book of *Women in Love*, Birkin roamed to the side of Willey Water, after seeing the shadow of moon, a strong aversion to women kindled inside of him. Because he thought women in love were too possessive and they would like to completely control and monopolize their partners. The women were like Great Mother to make decisions all on her own. This was far from Birkin's idea of harmony sexual

relationship between men and women. Hence, he wished he could smash the shadow of moon, embodiment of female, by lapidation. However, as a centre, the glint intact moon floated in the water like a hot white fireball struggling but completed. Description above offered a vivid picture of intense psychological warfare between Birkin and Ursula, and the inner world of characters was profoundly exhibited, which could not be done by traditional symbolic device. Horses are common symbols in the book as well. Horses could vividly express ups and downs in the most secret spirit world. In Chapter Nine, as Gerald taming the mare, Gudrun was spinning around for the bloody scenario, even lost conscious; and when she waking up, she turned out to be peace and cold. She sat on the sidelines while the man was still fighting with mare. Her heart was cold as stones. Gerald was planned to tame Gudrun as taming the mare, but he misjudged. This scenario profoundly revealed serious sexual conflict in sub-consciousness of Gerald and Gudrun. Thereby, the final episode could be indicated.

In the meantime, Lawrence combined prototype from Bible with symbol to express rich connotation. *Women in Love* was based on Apocalypse from the Bible. The couple of Gerald and Gudrun are the symbol of destruction. In the book, they always come out together with white, water, rain, snow etc. destruction image and an atmosphere of terror before catastrophe was delivered. However, Birkin and Ursula are the symbol of new hope. Beautiful images such as butterflies, grassland and trees come up from the perfect relationship of Birkin and Ursula. The significant comparison between death and new born generated a great power in readers' heart in *Women in Love*, which can be treated as a modern apocalypse.

CONCLUSION

In brief, *Women in Love* has been acknowledged as a climax work for the writer Lawrence. By the study above, significant narrative techniques had been shown in artistic expression in both themes and ideological contents. That is to say full development of modernism creation theme has been done in this book, and this makes it a master work of world literature.

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