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Analyzing the Conflict in Thomas Hardy's Novel
“Tess of the D’Urbervilles”

تحليل الصراع في رواية توماس هاردي تيس اوف ذي
ديربر فيلز

A research Submitted In Partial of the Requirement for M.A
Degree in English Literature

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents, to my brother and my sisters.

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Abstract

This study aimed at attempting the conflict between Tess and both Alec and Angel on the one hand, and Tess and Victorian society on the other hand. In Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, also this study aimed to show the internal and external conflicts which influence her, in addition to the causes of this conflict. Furthermore, this study points out the negative impact of the traditions and values in Victorian society that affect directly in the suffering of lower class especially the women. Finally, the study reveals the ability of Thomas Hardy's image of the conflict through his novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

مستخلص البحث

هدفت هذه الدراسة الي تحليل الصراع بين تيس و كل من الك وانجل من جانب و تيس و المجتمع الفيكتوري من جانب اخر في رواية توماس هاردي تيس اف ذي ديربرفيلز. كما هدفت الدراسة الي اظهار الصراع الذي تعيشه و الاسباب التي ادت الي هذا الصراع. و اشارت الدراسة الي بعض القيم والتقاليد السالبة في المجتمع الفيكتوري والتي لها تأثير مباشر في معاناة الطبقة الدنيا خاصة النساء. و اخيرا اظهرت الدراسة مقدرات توماس هاردي في تصويره لهذا الصراع من خلال روايته تيس اوف ذي ديربرفيلز.

Chapter One

Introduction

Chapter One

1.1 Introduction:

Literature is a kind of writing which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings and attitudes towards life. So literature is important for many reasons, including its ability to provide pleasure to readers, to help readers empathize with others and to develop thinking skills.

Literature is supposed to be an imaginative creation which is far from factual truth. It has been widely known of its three large genres; novel, poetry and drama. Each of them has much in common though they are rather different in form.

Novel is a narrative kind of fictitious writing, and poetry is written down in lines with rhyme scheme and dominated by rhythm, while drama is aimed at presenting on the stage.

Novels are fictions, they are in prose and they are usually, but not quite always have a degree of realism which is unequalled by any previous literature form.

As we know that conflict is essential to fiction, and it is the element on which the plot is built. Conflict provides change or growth of characters that is essential for a good novel. Also, conflict creates tension, which creates a strong interest in coming to an end-point of the conflict or resolution.

The desire to come to a resolution will propel the novel forward by giving a reader a desire to know what happens next.

In this study the researcher analyzes internal and external conflict through Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles". Because the researcher has found there are several events of conflict in the novel.

Since the novel consists of varied conflicts, the researcher has made them as his reasons to analyze internal and external conflict through Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles".

1.2 Statement of the Study Problem:

As has been mentioned above, much complain has been raised about the conflict as the problem in any piece of literature and is often classified according to the nature of protagonist or antagonist.

The study tries to analyze the internal and external conflict in Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles".

1.3 Questions of the Study:

The present study intends to answer the following questions through the Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles".

1-Why is Tess in conflict with herself?

2-To what extent Tess has a conflict with her environment?

3-What are the main causes of conflict between Tess and both Alec and Angel?

1.4 Hypotheses of the Study:

In considering the questions of the study, certain hypotheses can reasonably be formulated as being the main outlines of the research questions that already been stated above. These assumptions can be stated as follows:

- 1-Tess has internal conflict with herself.
- 2- Tess has external conflict with her environment.
- 3-Poverty and innocence are the causes of conflict between Tess and both Alec and Angel.

1.5 Objectives of the Study:

The researcher aims to achieve the following objectives:

- 1-To analyze Tess's internal and external conflict
Through Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles".
- 2-To find out what makes Tess in the conflict with her environment.
- 3-To find out the main causes of conflict between Tess and both Alec and Angel.

1.6 Methodology of the Study:

The researcher uses descriptive method as the term suggests description of event. The researcher uses data through Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles". The researcher selects the events in the novel by identifying specifically in conflict. After that, the researcher classifies the events that contain the conflict with its kinds with one another.

The classification is meant to separate the analysis of conflict in it. It is done in order to clarify each several kinds of conflict found in the novel. Thus, the classification of conflict can be analyzed in terms of literary analysis.

1.7 Significance of the Study:

It cannot be denied that one of literary forms is a novel. Through the novel, there is a conflict which constitute the texture of the life and conflict is a fundamental dynamic of human experience and interaction which necessary an element of fictional literature. Thus, the significance of this study is to enrich literary studies, especially in literature, in order to be used as a reference and to be more recited. Another significance of this study is to understand the nature of conflict as a significant part of literary work which needs materials so as to be more recited by several aspects.

1.8 Limits of the Study:

This study sheds light on the analysis of the conflict in Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles", and also the study focuses on the main causes of internal and external conflicts in the novel. Therefore, the researcher uses descriptive method to analyze and find out the results.

1.9 Outline of the study:

The present study will be arranged into four chapters as follows:

Chapter one includes an introduction, thesis statement, questions of the study, hypotheses of the study, objectives of the study, methodology of the study, the significance of the study and limits of the study.

Chapter two provides literature review relevant to this study. Therefore, includes summary of the novel, description of conflict, types of conflict, Tess of the d'Urberfield, Alec of the d'Urbervilles and Angel Clare.

Chapter three includes the analysis of conflict in the novel, the conflict between Tess and herself, between Tess and her environment, and both Alec and Angle.

Chapter four includes conclusion, recommendations, and suggestions of further studies.

Chapter Two

Literature Review and Previous Studies

Chapter Two

Literature Review and Previous Studies

2.1 Background of Victorian Era:

In English literature history, the Victorian era is undoubtedly one of the most brilliant stages; it roughly begins in 1837(the year Victoria became Queen) and ends in 1901(the year of her death).This period was marked by rapid change and developments in every field, from advances in medical, scientific and technological knowledge to change in population growth and the life humanity forever. The Victorian Period is also named as the period of critical realism. “The critical realists described with much vividness and great artistic skill the chief traits of the English society and criticized the capitalist system from a democratic viewpoint” (Liu 261).

Literature in Victorian era is characterized by a shift in the attitude of poets from relaxed to realism, as well as a shift in popularity from poetry to novels.

Victorian novels seek to represent a large and comprehensive social word, construct a tension between social conditions and the aspirations of the hero and heroine.

In the Victorian period, there are some other remarkable authors like Charles Dickens, Bronte sisters, George Eliot, Oscar Wilde and Thomas Hardy is the most talented novel writer of them. All these authors are well known at that time and several films based on their books.

However, it is important to realize from the outset that the Victorian period is quite long. Victorian's reign lasted over thirty-six years, longer than any other British.

Lastly, this brief overview can only partially summaries some characteristic of the nineteenth century, it does illustrate that society was disparate and that on one feature can serve to give a definitive view of what is meant to be "Victorian".

2.2 Overview of the Novel:

Tess of the d'Urbervilles is the one of Hardy's novels which reveals the cosmic indifference or malevolent ironies which life has in store for everyone, particularly for those unable to curb the demands of their own natures.

Tess is a deeply pessimistic novel revealing how an intelligent and sensitive girl can be driven to her death by society which is narrow in morality and spirit.

The novel grossly oversimplified the conflict as a struggle between relentlessly malevolent villains on one side and faultless saints on the other hand.

Tess of the d'Urbervilles is an intense study of the human nature, personal emotions, and the meaning of man's existence.

It tells the story of a country girl whose parents discover that they are related to a noble family.

She is seduced by one of the members of this family, Alec D'Urbervilles, and has an illegitimate child who dies.

Tess eventually finds work as a dairymaid in a peaceful and rural setting but continues to be haunted by her past. She falls in love with Angel Clare and marries him without confessing her past. When he learns the truth he deserts her and she ends up living with Alec again.

He told her that Angel would never take her back again, but when Tess discovers that he laid to her she kills him. She is briefly reunited with Angel but justice must be done and is hanged.

2.3 Description of Conflict

When you think of the conflicts you might instantly think of the ones referred to in literature, especially in fiction they can be applied to real life. In literature, conflict is the central issue and made the story move. Short stories have one conflict, while novels have many. Literary conflict includes internal conflict, also called man versus self-conflict and external conflict which includes many types.

Both internal and external conflicts are essential elements of storyline. It is essential for a writer to introduce and develop conflict, internal or external or both, in his storyline or to achieve a story goal.

i.e. the resolution of a conflict in order to entertain his readers.

Therefore, conflict is important to literature because it provides the basic materials for construction of the plot. Without conflict nothing would happen.

Before going any further, let us first taking a look into what causes conflict may help us understand this phenomenon even more.

Hence, let us take into consideration the common sources of conflict. There are some factors that make conflict arise, for the purpose of this discussion let us put into attention the three main sources of the conflict as proposed by American psychologist Daniel Katz.

According to him, conflict arises primarily due to these three:

2.3.1 Economic Conflict:

Economic conflict is brought by a limited amount of resources. The groups or individual involved then comes into conflict, to attain the most of these resources.

2.3.2 Value Conflict:

Value conflict is concerned with varied preferences and ideologies that people have as their principles. Conflicts driven by this factor are demonstrated in wars wherein separate parties have sets of beliefs that they assert.

2.3.3 Power Conflict:

Power conflict occurs when the parties involved intend to maximize what influence it has in the social setting. Such a situation can happen among individuals, groups, or even nations.

Consequently, there are a lot of ways to define conflict due to how it is used in many areas. Hence, to keep it simple for the layman, conflict

pertains to the opposing ideas and actions of different entities resulting in antagonistic state.

Also, conflict can be defined as a disagreement among groups or individuals characterized by antagonism and hostility.

Also, Michael Nicholson defines conflict as an activity which takes place when individual or group wish to carry out mutually inconsistent acts concerning their wants, needs or obligations.

In addition to that, conflict is a struggle between two or more forces that creates a tension that must be resolved.

2.4 Types of Conflict:

Conflict is classified into the following types:

2.4.1 Internal conflict (man vs. himself):

Internal conflict also known as man versus self-conflict is the conflict which exists inside the character, struggles with morality, fate, desire and belief. Also, internal conflict is meant as struggle that takes place in a character's mind to find meaning in life, to feel fulfilled, to find happiness, or to be forgiven.

In other words, it is a character dealing with his or her own mixed feelings or emotions.

This form of conflict is central to the character or characters and must be resolved by the character alone, he may decide between right or wrong or between two solutions to a problem.

There are many examples of internal conflict (man vs. himself) in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*:

- Tess vs. her worry of losing the family, because she is seduced by Alec.
- Tess vs. her fear of being killed by the environment, because she will be temperamental after the tragic event.
- Tess vs. her pain, because she cannot decide the solution of her problem.

Internal conflict may come in different scales, from the simpler mundane ones to ones that can affect major decisions.

Furthermore, this type of conflict can be quite difficult to handle if you find it hard to decipher your inner struggles.

2.4.2 External Conflict:

External conflict takes place outside of the body, or struggle between a character and an outside force. In other words, the character may face several types of outside forces to find the killer or solve the puzzle that will bring a satisfactory ending to story. The outside force may be another character.

External conflict manifests itself as man versus man, man versus society, man versus environment, man versus supernatural and man versus machine.

2.4.2.1 Man vs. Man or Character vs. Character:

Man vs. man is the most fundamental type of external conflict. This form of external conflict occurs when a character struggles against another character.

These struggles may be born from moral, religious or social differences and may be emotional, verbal or physical conflicts.

Man versus man is always the conflict present when a hero fights a villain. This form of conflict may present alone, or in conjunction with other external conflicts.

This type of conflict is mostly seen in the form of two characters against each other. In *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, we have examples of this type of conflict:

-Tess vs. Alec D'Urbervilles, she became a victim of Alec because she is raped by him.

-Tess vs. Angel Clare, after she married him he treats her cursedly, and then deserted her.

2.4.2.2 Man vs. Society:

Man versus society conflict exists when characters struggle against the moralities of their culture and government.

2.4.2.3 Man vs. Environment:

This type of conflict is anything surrounding a person. This can be including weather, objects and activities. Basically, man versus environment conflict means all external factors except people.

In Tess of the d'Urbervilles for example, Tess is a victim of her class and gender from social and economic status.

2.4.2.4 Man vs. Supernatural:

This type of conflict should be any supernatural force that is outside the understanding of the protagonist, including monsters, aliens, or deities.

2.4.2.5 Character vs. Machine:

This type of conflict places a character against man-made entities which may possess “artificial intelligence”.

Generally, external conflicts are those things that are physically. This includes a struggle to resolve issues, to win the hand of a woman, to get promotion, to find the killer, to punish the criminal, to win the court case, to save kidnapped child, to find the treasure, to overcome villain, to win the prize, to receive financial gain, to apologize and have it accepted.

External conflict has to do with things outside the character, relating to their home, finally career, friendships, hobbies, talents, church, and other organizations. It is resolving the rules and finding answers to solve outward problems.

2.5 Tess D'urbeyfield:

Tess is a simple young country girl of poor family lives in Marlott. She is pure and innocent beauty, but does not educate well, and exposures to the wiles of the world outside Marlott which are make her to lose her life.

Tess, the central character and protagonist in the novel is examined in deepness, and practically every scene of the novel related to her in some way.

At first, when someone tells Tess' father that they belong to the noble family, from this point her life begins to change.

In fact, it is her connate sense of responsibility that forces her to go to Trantridge to search for a job with the rich d'Urbervilles family to whom she is distantly related.

In Trantridge, she meets Alec d'Urbervilles by his bold advances that lead to her seduction.

With fearful of the man who has stolen her innocence, she returns to her home and tells her mother the details and chides her for not telling the truth about the danger in men-folk.

Soon, Tess finds out she is pregnant and she becomes a shame of her situation.

After the birth of her son, Tess gains enough courage to go back to the fields to work and nurses her baby there.

One night when she returns home from work, she finds her son extremely ill. She wants to call the parson, but her father will not let her. She christens the baby herself and calls him Sorrow.

The next day the child dies, and Tess must bury him herself in a forgotten corner of the cemetery.

After Sorrow's death, Tess realizes she can no longer stay at home. She finds work as a milkmaid at Talbothay's farm, where she meets Angel Clare, the handsome and educated of her dreams. Surprisingly to Tess, Angel Clare is also attracted to her. Because of her past, she tries to discourage Angel's attention but he is totally enamored and begs her to marry him. She says no at first, because she wants to tell him about her past. So, she writes a letter and explains everything about her past sins and assumes he reads it. Since he says nothing to her, she believes he has forgiven her. On the day of her wedding, she discovers that her letter is not opened under the rug. On the night of her marriage, at the last she confesses to Angel Clare. He horrified that she is not pure and innocent young lady he thought, as a result he rejects her and move to Brazil.

Tess returns home and cares for her ailing parents and her siblings, while working hard in the fields. She is too proud to ask for her help from Angel's parents. Alec finds out where Tess is and repeatedly offers help, for he wants to win her over again. Tess continually refuses his offers. When her father dies, the family is forced to move out of their home in Marlott.

Alec appears and again offers his financial assistance, Tess in terrible need and feeling like she will never see Angel again, finally accepts Alec's seduction.

Angel returns from Brazil, he finds Tess and begs for forgiveness. She tells him it is too late, for she is living with Alec. It is Tess's worst nightmare, however, to think she might pass up an opportunity to be with her beloved husband, but she knows that Alec will never release her. As a result, in anger and frustration, she stabs Alec to death. She spends her last

few days, before her arrest and execution is living in happiness with Angel, the only man she has ever loved.

In *Tess*, Hardy creates an amazing courageous and resilient woman with an innate capacity for recovery. Her resourcefulness and determination are reflected several times in the novel, including the baptism of her baby and discussing it with the parson, her decorating Sorrow's grave. Her striking out on her own to find employment, her refusal to Clare for financial aid, and her loving Angel in spite of the cruelty he has inflicted on her. She is also determined to stand up to Alec, and refuses his enticing offers many times.

It is only when she feels that fate has totally defeated her and her family, who are homeless and live in poverty, does she give in to Alec's offers. He has convinced her she will never hear from or see Angel again. When Angel reappears, her love for him gives her the strength to kill Alec, her seducer and tempter.

In spite of her faults, Hardy creates Tess as strong and admirable character. The author conveys the idea that his protagonist is more sinned against than sinful.

Tess is the archetypal anti-heroine. That is, she does not win the battles or influence political decisions; instead she inhabits her own small world and tries to cope with the fate that life has dealt her.

2.6 Alec D'Urbervilles:

In reality, Alec is not a d'Urbervilles at all; instead his family is named him Stoke –d'Urbervilles and later just d'Urbervilles.

Alec is the son of wealthy family he lives with his mother Mrs. D'Urbervilles. His appearance like his personality has no improvement. His dark complexion with crude red lips and black mustache paint him

nothing short of a villain. But he is a devilish character who is always woos innocent Tess with his suave talk.

Alec is a wealthy young man, so he used to have his own way. His motives are very clear from the beginning to seduce an innocent Tess, for his own, and will do anything to have her .After few days she realizes his evil nature. When she learns him, Alec is furious to be losing something that he wants and swears vengeance.

Alec is the nemesis and downfall of Tess's life, at first it seems that he has repented, for he becomes an itinerant preacher. But the moment he sees her again, his passion rises, and begins a full-time pursuit the girl he has lost.

Constantly rejected by her, and each time he creates a new temptation and using his charms to win her back.

When he sees her totally broken and her family living in a temporary tent in the cemetery of the churchyard, Alec sees a golden opportunity to get what he wants. He makes the last temptation to Tess to save her and her family. When she finds herself out of desperation, she accepts his offer. Tess however, feels trapped by this evil man and sees her only way of escaping him through his murder.

In spite of his totally villainous character from when he appears in the novel, until the end, Alec is violent, selfish, headstrong, adamant, and demanding .Although he makes generous offers to financially care for Tess and her family, it for a self-serving purpose; he wants to win Tess as a wife.

She is a challenge for him, only because he cannot have her, whereas other women throw themselves at him for financial gain. His purpose in

the novel is to bring misery to Tess by repeatedly casting his long shadow across her life.

In the end, Alec takes full advantage of Tess and he convinces her to live with him as a d'Urbervilles. Thus, Alec persuaded Tess to live a life of sin. This deception results in his death when Tess, enraged stabs him.

2.7 Angel Clare:

Angel Clare is the youngest son of Revered and Mrs. Clare. He goes against what the family had intended for him like his two brothers, so his father does not send him to Cambridge for further studies.

Angel is handsome, bright and well educated; he enters the novel at very beginning, as the nameless young man who dances with girls of Marlott and then disappears. He appears at Talbothays where he meets Tess and begins his relationship with her by offering to tutor her, and teaches her what he wants her to know and gives her books to read. Finally he falls in love with Tess.

While at Talbothay, Angel shows that he is stiff in his beliefs, he wants to make Tess over into his own image of womanhood, because she seems open, pure, and innocent he is easily deceived. When Angel knows the truth about her past on his wedding night, he cannot forgive her or accept her as his wife. Therefore, he sends her home to her parents and goes to Brazil. In Brazil Angel meets another Englishman, they trust each other then he tells him about his past. The Englishman animatedly, told him that he is a fool to have deserted Tess. As a result, Angel begins to evaluate himself and all of his beliefs, especially those related to the morality. He realizes he has been terrible to his wife and hopes for reconciliation after his return home. But the year of secession from Tess puzzles him with

guilt and shame. He returns to Emminster a changed man both physically and mentally.

Angel immediately goes in search of his wife and finally finds her living with Alec d'Urbervilles. His heart is broken because Tess has rejected him, but he does not blame her. As he is ready to board a train and leave and Tess behind forever, she approaches him and tells him that she has killed Alec.

Angel proves that he truly changed, for he still accepts Tess and tries to protect her. He hides her away for five days in a vacant mansion, where they spend their real honey moon. After that Angel shows that he is forgiving, kind, thoughtful and optimistic. Unfortunately, these traits reveal themselves too late.

Hardy develops as an interesting and complicated character, full of contradictions and confusions. In many ways, he is a modern man, as indicated in his rejection of immoral, aristocratic families, such as the D'Urbervilles, and in his negative reaction to orthodox Christian beliefs, as preached by his father. At the same time, he is ideological and rigid about his morality. He feels a woman should be pure and chaste, the conventional Victorian picture of femininity. As a result, he cannot forgive Tess for having an affair with Alec, even though he has affair with an older woman in London.

In spite of this hardness and cruel treatment of Tess, as a result, there is also much good in Angel. He has an affectionate nature and truly loves Tess at time of their wedding. He is patient with her, teaching her many things, especially those he feels like should learn. He stands up for her against his parents when they judge her to be a poor choice for a wife.

Angel's life is characterized by quick decisions that are not well thought out. He seems reasonable but makes decisions based on impulse not rational thinking. In the end, his goodness shines through in his kind treatment of Tess and his forgiveness of her past sins. Unfortunately, it comes too late to save Tess or their marriage.

2.8 Previous Studies:

In this part of previous studies which will be illustrated to show Hardy's work are scarce. Therefore, the researcher finds some related studies which can explain conflicts in Thomas Hardy's novels in general and in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

The first study was conducted by (Hossein Mobaraki 2015), under the title "Alien Woman: Strong Victorian Binaries and Feminine Norms in Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'urbervilles*". This study attempts to investigate how women are treated in Victorian novel in general, and especially in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. In the Victorian novel, gender-based social norms ordered appropriate behavior. Female bad actions were not only judged according to the law, but also according to the idealized conception of femininity. It was this absolute cultural measure and how far the woman violated the feminine norms of society, that defined her criminal act rather than the act itself or the injury her act strengthened. When a woman deviated from the Victorian norms of the ideal woman, she was branded and labeled. The fallen woman was viewed as a moral threat, an infectious disease.

During the Victorian era, the view of women as being fallen or pure, good or bad became mixed with other notions of duality such as strange or

familiar, and beastly or civilized. In this society the woman who was not considered to be completely pure and without blemish fell into the category of the fallen woman. This article examines the notion of the fallen woman in Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

This novel narrates the fate of a young, single and innocent girl who is tempted by a man more highly placed than her socially. In this situation, the irreversible mistake brings shame and estrangement. Left alone in her sorrow and guilt, the woman sees no hope of a better life: death is the only solution to her difficult situation. The woman goes through a fall; a change in the state of being, a fall from innocence to social banishment.

The second study was submitted by (Vladimir Tumanov 2012), under the title "Conflicting Reproductive Strategies in Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*". Western university.

In this study, Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* is analyzed from an evocritical perspective in order to consider evolved human reproductive strategies through the psychology and behavior of the novel's three principal characters: Tess, Alec, and Angel. It is argued that Hardy made the episode of Tess' and Alec's sexual contact, as well its interpretation by the characters, ambiguous, thereby suggesting the possibility of seduction rather than rape. In this context, two female mating patterns inherited from our hominid ancestors appear in Tess' behavior:

- The collection of high quality genes from a genetically fit male (Alec) who is not likely to stay with the female and provide for the offspring.
- Mating with a provider male who is interested in long-term parental investment (Angel). Conversely, Angel and Alec represent two male mating strategies that evolved as possible courses of action in our species:

the dad and the cad respectively. The unwillingness of Angel to forgive Tess her sexual past is considered in the context of another evolved feature of the human mind: paternal uncertainty (the fear of the male's genetic extinction through the possibility of raising another male's offspring). This is juxtaposed with studies of male jealousy in different cultures and periods. Tess' decision to tell Angel about her past is viewed in connection with the concept of modularity: an approach to human psychology based on the assumption that the mind is divided into specialized modules (responsible for different cognitive spheres) which can sometimes conflict.

The third study was edited by Mr. (Boussaad Ihaddadene 2010), under the title "The conflict between the Ideal and the social in Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*".

Mentouri University of Constantine. The purpose of this study is to show the conflict between idealism and society in Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*. In this novel, Hardy portrays the strife of the two individuals Jude and Sue to make their own ways in society by seeking to realize their ideas. He also reveals the difficulties met by the two idealists in front of the society's attempts to thwart their ideas and to force them to surrender to its norms. This study allows the reader to have a deep understanding of the origin of the conflict, the climax of the confrontation between the two opposing sides and the result of the conflict. In this respect, the present study helps the reader to acquire a thorough knowledge of Hardy's thought and the values of the Victorian society to which he belongs.

Chapter Three

An Analysis of Conflicts from a Critical Point of View

Chapter Three

An Analysis of Conflicts From A critical Point of View:

Tess of the d'Urbervilles (1891) is one of the most famous novels of Thomas Hardy, which deals with the incident of the ravishment, came into the great conflicts with Victorian morality. This ravishment is explored through the experiences of Tess Durbeyfield as she encounters the problems of life and dark side of her family.

3.1 Description of the Conflict:

Conflict is the essence of the stories and novels in order to give the reader some reasons to care about the outcome and to continue reading to learn that outcome. At the story core, conflict is the momentum of happening and change and is crucial on all levels for delivering information and building characterization.

Conflict adds excitement and suspense to a novel and usually becomes clear to the beginning of a novel. This can help the reader starts to wonder what will happen next and how the characters will handle the situation. Many readers enjoy trying to predict the final outcome. The excitement usually builds to a peak or climax. The climax is the moment of the greatest tension in the novel.

A conflict is a struggle between opposing forces, and there are two main kinds of conflict in the novel of Tess of the d'Urbervilles. Internal conflict is the tension which created by character's desire versus her

shakiness, weakness and fears. And external conflict is what happens to character.

3.2 The Internal Conflict:

The internal conflict is the psychological struggle occurring inside the main character; usually it is connected with emotion. In the novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* the most internal conflict is an emotional one, it is a battle over values, morals, and beliefs. The main character wants to overcome of fear, stigma, failure, and weakness that have damaged the character's confidence and self-respect. These struggles are often against a character's nature, values, morals, beliefs, religious faith and other elements.

Therefore, the internal conflict is more expressive than external conflict because, it is not a visual or tangible opposition; this means a character dealing with his or her mixed feelings or emotions.

3.2.1 The conflict between Tess and herself:

Throughout Thomas Hardy's novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, Tess has had many downfalls in her life. This means that Tess is in conflict with herself. The most important points in the novel prove that Tess has conflict with herself are the following:

"Tess knew that her mother greatly looked forward to these trips to Rolliver's. There she could sit by her husband's side among the beer-drinkers, and forget that the children existed". (p.6)

-This point proves that, Tess's father was a drunk.

“It was Tess who worried and worked and felt responsible for her little brothers and sisters. So naturally it was Tess who should represent her family at the d’Urbervilles home”. (p.10)

-This point reveals that Tess had a house full of kids.

“Then Tess went up to her mother, put her head on Joan’s shoulder, and told her the whole story”. (p.23)

-This point proves that, Tess was raped by her cousin Alec d’Urbervilles.

“Poor Sorrow’s fight against the world and wickedness was a short one, fortunately perhaps, taking into account his situation. In the blue light of the morning he breathed his last” (P.30).

-This point confirms that, Tess had a baby who died.

“Angel, she said, do you know why I’ve been running after you? To tell you that I’ve killed him! There was a pitiful smile on her white face as she spoke” (P.111).

-This point proves that, she killed Alec d’Urbervilles.

“What is it, Angel? She said, sitting up. Have they come for me? Yes, dearest, they have.

That is right. I am almost glad. This happiness could not have lasted! She stood up and went towards the waiting men. ‘I am ready’, she said quietly” (118).

-The final point indicates that, she got arrested.

Tess of the d’Urbervilles is considered to be a tragedy due to the tragic downfall of the protagonist Tess. From the early days in her life, her father John had begun to destroy her, which then led to Alec D’Urbervilles and eventually finished with Angel Clare.

Tess’s downfall began with her experiences with her father. She grew up with a father who drank excessively and did not give her any type of

guidance or support. His characteristics are revealed when he sends Tess to Tantridge to deliver the beehives, due to the fact that he is too drunk to do it himself. Rather than taking responsibility for the horrible accident Tess had with the family's horse, which leads to the death of the horse. The death of the horse destroys the family's livelihood. Tess thinks that she has dragged her parents into this quagmire.

As Tess feels the responsibility of the family more than her parents, so she agrees to go and see Mrs. d'Urbervilles and works there as an employee of Alec. Later, she is seduced by him. Following this, when Tess delivers her baby upon returning from Tantridge, reader once again sees John's true side of how horrible he is and how he destroys his daughter, by not letting the parson come and baptize her child Sorrow, yet he is on the verge of dying. Her son's name reflects just how miserable she is and how much pain she is going through, because of Alec.

Throughout these incidents the reader can see just how Tess is selfless and loyal to her family members. The outcome of this is unfortunately useable, her downfall.

Tess's tragedy is not only results from the external conflicts, but also the internal ones. And only through the internal causes, can the external causes become operative. The tragedy that results from the conflict between the man and his self is the tragedy of character. On the one hand, Tess struggles bravely against her destiny and the conventional morality. She desires for happiness and true love. On the other hand, she cannot completely get rid of social conventions and moral standards the day, which makes her believe that she has to pay for what she has sinned.

3.3 The External Conflict:

The external conflict is a struggle between a character and an outside force. External conflict could be happen between man versus man, man versus society, man versus environment and man versus supernatural. While in this novel, the external conflicts of Tess cover all these kinds of conflicts, both big and small that play a great role the novel.

External conflict has to do with things outside the character, relating to their home, family, career, friendships, hobbies, talents, church, and other organizations. It is resolving the rules and finding answer to solve outward problems.

In the external conflicts of Tess, the researcher focuses only on three types of external conflicts, as follows:

- Man versus man (Tess vs. Alec) and (Tess vs. Angel).
- Man versus society
- Man versus environment.

3.3.1 The Conflicts between Tess and Alec:

Tess Durbeyfield is young girl comes from poor family with many younger brothers and sisters .The family's poverty forces her to visit the d'Urbervilles in Trantridge and claim that she is from the same family of the d'Urbervilles. She works at Trantridge where she is seduced by Alec.

Alec D'Urbervilles is Tess' antagonist and seducer. Alec is a fraud as well as a morally corrupt person. His viciousness is revealed completely when he sees Tess for the first time. He becomes a person out of guilt over the

sin he has committed, but abandons his parish duties when he sees Tess again.

In this novel the conflict between Tess and Alec d'Urbervilles is found in several phases, but the most relevant one that reveals the major conflict in this point is:

“Now don't cry, my dear. sit here and wait for me. He made abed for the tired girl among the dead leaves, and covered her with his coat. He set off into the fog to find out where he was, and came back to find Tess fast asleep, he saw her in her white dress among the leaves , a pale, shining figure in the dark. He bent down and touched her cheek with his. Everywhere there was darkness and silence, the birds and animals slept, safe in and under the trees. But who was looking after Tess? Who was protecting her innocence?”

Tess said d'Urbervilles, and lay down beside her. The girl was not strong enough to resist him.

Why was Tess's girlish purity lost? Why does the wrong man take the wrong women? Why do the bad so often ruin the good? Why is beauty damage by ugliness? Thousands of years of philosophy cannot give us the answers to these questions. These things happen, and have always happened. Perhaps in the past, rolling home after a battle, Tess's and ancestors, the real d'Urbervilles, had done the same, even more cruelly, to young country girls. But we cannot accept that is Tess's fault, and should happen to her. As the people of her village said, 'it was to be.' And from now on, Tess's life was to be completely different” (p.19).

For most readers, the major issue in this novel is whether Tess is victimized, whether she is responsible for the fate, or whether she is partially victimized, and partially responsible for her fate.

Both Tess and her father are involved with the past. Parson Tringham reveals his renowned family tree to Durbeyfield. The immediate effect of this meaningless information about the past is Durbeyfield's foolish behavior; he is taken by his own self importance and then becomes drunk.

Tess is at the center of this novel, as almost every reader feels and as evolution of this title suggests. So an understanding of Tess's character and her personal traits is essential to understanding the novel.

Tess has the strong sense of responsibility which the children of alcoholics often develop. Tess leaves the dance early because she worried about her father's behavior, she feels guilty about the grass stains on the white dress which her mother washed and ironed. An incompetent housekeeper and mother, Mrs. Durbeyfield flinging the baby from side to side like a weaver's shuttle. Having irresponsibility parents, Tess assumes responsibility and worries about her younger siblings. This concern is obviously the basis of her volunteering to drive prince, but it is not explain why she chooses to drive herself with her younger brother as a companion rather than ask young man. Tess assumes responsibility for prince's death, to the extent of feeling like a murderess. This feeling cause her to acquiesce in her mother's scheme to go the d'Urbervilles help.

Tess's mother and father wish her to go to Trantridge so as to see Mrs. D'Urbervilles and claim that she is from the same family.

Since Mrs. D'Urbervilles was quite wealthy, she might could her own family in their time of need, but Tess refuses their wish. She changes her mind because she has an accident with her father's horse, and it has died.

In order to correct the wrong she agrees to go to Trantridge.

From this point, Tess's life becomes a succession of journeys, and each journey she takes and each place where she stays presents her with a test.

On the journey to the slopes, when Alec speeds down the hill, this is the first of the hunted/wounded/trapped images of Tess that run through the novel. At this point, Tess is able to act to defend herself and to resist Alec's advances, she rubs off his "kiss of mastery". Tess thinks of returning but decides to stay; at this point Tess still feels she has choice. Is she really free at this point so that she is responsible for her decision? Does this decision to stay make her responsible for Alec's sexually violating her later?

From his first appearance Alec seems to be a melodramatic villain, a womanizer, with his crude, full lips, his bold eye, and his dark moustache. His addressing Tess as "my beauty" suggests his sexual nature. His subsequent behavior confirms this impression.

After the dance at Chaseborough, Tess refuses Alec's offers to take her home and goes with him only to escape from the confrontation with Mr. Darch and others.

Tess has resisted his advances, she tells him she disliked and was angered by his kissing her, that she does not love him, and that she was sometimes offended by his love-making.

The fog causes Alec to lose his way, and the moonlight comes out. When he returns, Tess was sleeping. Alec takes full advantage of Tess, the reason for such a rape is clear. As suggested early in the novel, when Tess visits the d'Urbervilles mansion for the first time, Alec feeds Tess with strawberries. This scene is, in fact very suggestive; it depicts Alec as the stereotypical sensuous man, and foreshows his licentious motives concerning Tess. By transforming Tess, her loss of virginity has

individualized her and thereby cut her off from community to which she belonged.

After that, Tess returns to her village to give a birth to Alec's child. During her stay at home she isolates herself from everybody. Even the bedroom she shared with some of the children formed her retreat more continually than ever. As a result of her seduction by Alec d'Urbervilles, Tess enters into a hopeless struggle against the prejudices of her social environment. However, she has to find a job though it is very difficult for a country girl to survive with her toil only.

Tess meets Alec again and the past repeats itself with his pursuit of a fleeing Tess. Just as he caught up with her when she left Cashborough, so he catches up with her now. Then he accepted her leaving, with some reluctance. Why is he unable to let her go when they meet again? Is it her beauty has developed distinction and depth as a result of her suffering? Does he want to make up for having her, as he claims?

The metaphor of Tess as hunted prey becomes literal with Alec's pursuit of her. From time to time Alec offers to take care of Tess and to provide to her family. He seems genuinely distressed at times by the hardship of her time. An increasingly Tess continues to resist Alec.

Tess becomes angry when Alec sneers at her husband; she strikes him with heavy leather glove and draws blood. Her anger and violence here foreshadow the ending, if they are traits inherited from her d'Urbervilles ancestors. Tess immediately falls into the role of victim and passive sufferer.

Tess's situation becomes so difficult, the arbitrariness of life kills off her father and allows her mother to recover. The death of her father acquires a grim meaning for his family because of changes occurs in rural society. The lease to their home expires with his death; historical changes are pushing the class to which the Durbeyfield belong out of their homes and communities. So circumstances are hostile to the Durbeyfields.

In addition, Marlott's respectable members who have a narrow code of sexual morality, regard Tess as a bad influence who should leave. Her mother's irresponsibility and lack of foresight cause them to lose their cottage, she becomes angry when advised that Tess should leave and announces her intention to leave. These circumstances combine to force the Durbeyfields to leave their home and Marlott.

Tess feels responsible for their eviction and deeply anxious over what will happen to the children. They become homeless when the rooms are moving to unavailable, Mrs. Durbeyfield did not confirm their rental soon enough.

Tess finds herself surrounded by the hopelessness of her family's circumstances, her sense of responsibility for the children, and her loss of faith in Angel's returns. Therefore, she accepts Alec's offers and lives with him.

3.3.2 The Conflict between Tess and Angel Clare:

From his first appearance as unnamed young man, Angel Clare seems somewhat isolated from his brothers. He seems to be a young man who chooses his own path, for he does not leave with his brothers. He

does not notice Tess, who is indistinguishable from the other young women; she is still integrated into the rural community, though she catches Clare's attention by standing apart, hurt at his not having danced with her. He regrets her ignorance but accepts that there is nothing he can do about it.

Angel loves Tess and treats her equally which makes her trust him and fall in love with him. Tess opens her mind and tells him all her past story with Alec on their wedding night, thinking that Angel would forgive her as she does for him. But he disappoints her. His intellectual refinement drops away. The weakness and flaws of his personality are exposed here completely, he cannot accept Tess.

He considers her as a "fallen woman". He still judges her purity with the conventional value and moral standard that are implanted in him when he is a boy. He is the slave to the custom and conventionality.

In this novel the conflict between Tess and Angel Clare is found in several phases, but the most relevant one that reveals the major conflict in this point is:

"Now remember, he said, I am not angry with you, but I cannot bear to live with you at the moment. I will try to accept it. But until I come to you, you should not try to come to me."

The punishment seemed a heavy one to Tess. Had she really deserved this?

May I write to you?

Oh yes, if you are ill or need anything. You probably won't, so I might be the first to write.

I agree to the conditions, Angel, because you know best. Only do not make it too much for me to bear!

That was all she said. If she had sobbed or fainted or begged him, he would probably have given way. But she made it easy for him. He gave her some money and they said goodbye. He stood on the road watching the carriage continue up the hill, secretly hoping that Tess would look back. But she was lying half dead with misery inside. He turned to walk on alone, not realizing that he still loved her” (p.81).

After her seduction by Alec of the d’Urbervilles, Tess enters into a hopeless struggle against the prejudices of her social environment. However, she has to find a job though it is very difficult a country girl survive with her toil only. She finds work at Talbothays with the kindness of the dairyman and his wife. This is the second time she is happy. The first time was when she met Angel Clare at the May dance.

At the time of their encounter in this dairy, Angel Clare is twenty-six years old. He is very handsome, and almost all the dairymaids are after him. For Tess there was no concealing from her the fact that she loved Angel Clare.

Both Tess and Angel are deluded about the true character of the other. Because of her unfortunate experience with Alec, Tess overestimates Angel’s moral integrity and his personal superiority to herself. Initially she sees him not as a man but as intelligence, she admires his self-control.

Angel perceives Tess as a fresh and virginal daughter of nature. The idea of her purity recurs in Angel’s thoughts and in conversations about her in with his parents. Unfortunately for Tess, his idea of purity and virtue is conventional and narrow; he equates them with physical virginity. Angel seems intellectually liberated; he does not subscribe to the religious

beliefs of his father and brothers and refuses to become a minister. In reality, his underlying emotions and basic principles remain conventional, perhaps as conventional as theirs. Angel chooses intellect and ideas over emotion and instinct, in this he contrasts with Tess who is “a vessel of emotion.” In the crisis of their wedding night, his ideas have more influence than his feelings, the appetite of joy, and the drive to reproduction.

A similar conflict between his expressed beliefs and underlying values exists in his view of families glorious in the past, from a political point of view, he concerns them and regards their descendants as doomed to failure, but from an imaginative or poetic point of view, he sees their glamour and romance. From a social point of view, he is pleased with Tess’s ancestry, which he thinks will make her more socially acceptable. Their misunderstanding about each other contributes to their alienation on their wedding night.

Tess makes two attempts to confess her past to Angel. The first time indulgent attitude causes her to retreat and tell him about her d’Urbervilles ancestry. The second time, her letter slips under the rug, so that this effort to confess also fails.

After they get marriage, Angel is moved to confess his sexual transgression on their wedding night, like Tess, he wanted to confess during their courtship, but he afraid because he might lose her. She warmly and immediately fore gives him, and he accepts her forgiveness easily. Tess is almost glad at his lapse because she thinks it is the same as hers and that he will forgive her just as she has forgiven him. The details

hint that her revelation will have unfortunate outcome, he cannot forgive her.

Thereafter, Angel leaves “fallen” Tess, saying “I will come to you. But until I come to you it will be better that you should not try to come to me.” (Tess of the d’Urbervilles, page-81) He does not tell Tess that she is free, but keeps her bound to himself. He also leaves a sum of money to his father in case that Tess may use it; he tries to get rid of the economic responsibility of this marriage. Tess, however, does not touch the money Angel left to her.

After Angel leaves Tess, her social position worsens. She loses her job at Talbothays dairy. Then she finds a job at Flintcomb Ash, where there is nothing kind or satisfying. Conditions are harsh, and Tess and the other dairymaids suffer a lot during the winter.

When Tess in a miserable situation, Alec comes up again and finds Tess. He tells her what he lived after she is gone, that he felt terribly sorry for ruining Tess, that with help of the parson of Emminster.

Alec assumes new identities, he is now a preacher. He then becomes an industrial overseer. Lastly, he will be a victim.

Alec makes a marriage proposal to Tess which she refuses saying that she has no affection for him, and that she is in love with her husband. In fact, Alec did not know that Tess was already married to another when he proposed to Tess.

However, Alec shows the kind of understanding when he hears that she is a married woman and in love with another. If Angel had shown the same

kind of understanding when Tess confessed to him her past with Alec, Tess's tragedy would have avoided. As the story proceeds, she becomes unhappy. Her personhood gradually disappears into nothingness with the development of events for which she feels responsible. At the end of the novel, she just becomes a black flag, signaling her execution and non-existence.

3.3.3 The Conflict between Tess and Society:

Tess of the d'Urbervilles is the one of the Hardy's most famous portrayal (1891) which represents his works, and came into great conflict with Victorian morals.

In this novel, the poor village girl Tess D'urbeyfield faces many conflicts, internal and external through the novel, big and small at the same time. According to the analysis of these conflicts, Tess also has conflict with her society it can be mentioned as follows:

- Tess is seduced by the rich Alec D'Urbervilles in the woods. Therefore, she is despised by society after losing her virginity before marriage according to the traditions.

- As a result of seduction, she becomes pregnant and has a child who dies in infancy. When the child becomes ill, Tess's father does not let the parson get in to see him; also he baptizes by the mother, and does not burn on the churchyard.

- Tess finds work as a dairymaid on a farm, where she falls in love with Angel Clare, who is a clergyman's son and offer to marry her. Tess enjoys a period of contentment and happiness. She eventually accepts his

proposal to marry him. Nevertheless, Tess is troubled by pangs of conscience and feels she should tell Angel about her past. She tries to write him a confessional note and slip it under his door, but it slides under the carpet, Angel never sees it.

However, when Tess tells the truth to Angel about her past on their wedding night, he cannot accept it and deserts her. She bears her misfortunes bravely. And the burden of her family leaves her no choice.

Tess is the eldest child in the family. The great self sacrifice spirit is the nature of her character and she sadly becomes Alec's mistress again. After Angel returns from Brazil, repenting his harshness, he finds Tess living with Alec. He tells her he has forgiven her and begs her to take him back. Tess tells him he has come too late. Tess kills Alec in desperation, and in the end she is arrested and has to be hanged. Finally, Tess is destroyed by society.

Throughout the analysis of components of this chapter, it is obviously, there is a conflict between Tess and herself, between Tess and Alec, between Tess and Angel, and between Tess and her society. The poverty, Alec's wickedness, Angel's conventional ideas, and Tess's weakness are the direct causes of the conflict on Tess's tragedy.

But Tess is also a strong woman throughout the novel. She stands up for herself and refuses to crumble under pressure. She chastises herself for her weakness after her seduction escapade with Alec.

Also, at the burial of her child Sorrow, she weeps but collects herself and moves on as a stronger woman. Over all, her determined attempts to escape her past primarily reflect her strength.

Finally, the result that the society is the real and root cause of the conflict on Tess's tragedy.

Chapter Four

Conclusion, Recommendations and Suggestions for Further Studies

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1.4 Conclusion:

Tess of the d'Urbervilles is the one of the most recognized work of Thomas Hardy. Because to the problems of Victorian era, such as rape and the importance of purity. This novel is about the tragedy of a peasant girl, who was born in a poor family.

In the novel, Angel Clare and Tess are married, but when Angel finds out the truth about her past, he is outraged and hurt. Therefore, Angel leaves Tess and tries to continue on about his life without her. He finally realizes that does love Tess, and so he tries to locate, once he finds her, he learns she has started a new life with Alec D'Urbervilles the man of her past. Angel begs Tess to come back to him but she says he came too late.

In Victorian era however, rape victims were silent and their suffering went unheard. Often, rape victims were blamed for their misfortune, and were to bring it upon themselves. This was the case with Tess and Alec D'Urbervilles. Alec's wrongdoing unnoticed and unpunished, but Tess pain and suffering by many until her something dreadful and she murdered Alec. After her crime, Tess was still blame of what happen and no one took any notice that Alec D'Urbervilles is the one who drove her to what she did.

Moreover, we have come to realize throughout this study that the conflict is either internal or external. The external conflict exists outside a character's mind; in the novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* one conflict is 'man' versus 'woman' because Tess is raped by a man which makes the rest of the novel. Also, Tess is a victim because of her class and gender, which is considered as a conflict of 'woman' versus society.

The internal is the dilemma which exists inside a character's mind, as in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* Tess is in conflict versus herself.

The term 'conflict' is the driving force behind any plot indicates the clash of wills, desire, goals, or physical force the animate the plot of a literary text.

Conflict adds the excitement and suspense to the novel. The conflict usually becomes to the beginning of the novel. As the plot unfolds the reader starts to wonder what will happen next and how the characters will handle the situation.

Many readers enjoy trying to predict the final outcome. The excitement usually builds to a high point, or climax. The climax is the turning point of the novel.

4.2 Recommendations:

Throughout this study the researcher finds that, researches in literature are few, and in Thomas Hardy's works are rare. Therefore, the researcher recommends the following:

- 1- Our national universities should be aware of the importance of literature.
- 2- Doctors should be emboldening their students to focus on literary works of Thomas Hardy, because he is considered as the mentor of literature in Victorian era.

4.3 Suggestions for further studies:

According to this research that has been undertaken, the researcher suggests the following:

- 1- Conflict is an important part of literature; it is not covered by the researcher, so researchers should expand data about it.
- 2- There should a study about the effects of class division upon literature in Victorian era.

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