

THE ROLE OF FALLACY IN MARK TWAIN'S *THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN*

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Abstract

This article is an attempt to explore the inclusion and the use of superstitious elements in Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). Superstition involves a false belief in the magic and the occult, to almost to an extent of fixation, which is contrary to pragmatism. Through the logical and psychological make conversation with, this paper tries to shed light on Twain's supernaturalism in their specific story and the extent the main characters are determine by it. A Story reveals that characters are highly affected by fallacy, more than they are influenced by their religious beliefs, or other social factors and values. The researcher also tries to explore the role played by fallacy represented by fate and the fallacy in determining the course of actions characters handle in both dramas. The paper concluded that the people who lived in the past were superstitious to an extent of letting magic, omens; signs, etc. affect and dictate their lives; actions and future decisions. They dictate their destiny and make it very difficult for them to avoid it, alter it or think rationally and independently. And that, man's actions are not isolated, but closely connected to the various forces utilize in the universe.

Keywords: beliefs, dramas, mystery, *Huckleberry Finn*, magic, superstition, fallacy, Twain.

1. Introduction

The focus of the research falls on the critical and psychological analysis of Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to highlight the author use of fallacy and the role it plays in narratives to the characters' behaviors. Superstition is the belief in the magic and the occult, which is opposite to realism or rationalism. Where the people of the past superstitious to an extent of letting magic, omens, etc. dictate their lives and actions? The following few lines from Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* best decorate the idea or the point that they were superstitious or, less logical that the people living in the twenty first Century; during the course of the narrative, Huck, the main character says:

Pretty soon a spider went creep up my shoulder, and I flipped it off and it lit in the taper; and before I could budge it was all shriveled up. (Twain, 1884, p. 8)

These words express the idea that the very beginning of the story tells us that Huck is mythical fallacy character. This characteristic is inherent in him since birth, and was infuse in him by his own culture and surroundings. According to Halliday , religion seems to have no consequence on Huck, and the boy is controlled by the superstitious beliefs of his time; he thinks that the stars and necromantic control his life, and his whole being is controlled and determined by them. In light of the above words, we cannot consider him a rational person, but he can be viewed as superstitious and illogical. This view supports the belief that sometimes religion is overpowered or subsided by superstition and the belief in the obscure.

Twain explores the theme of fallacy through the conflict between civilization and natural life. Huck represents the latter by being uncivilized and primitive, and his strong wish to interruption the civilized society. Being so, “Huck’s actions and thoughts are determined by his superstitious nature, which controls his whole being” asserts Clemens (1962, p. 3). This analysis of Huck’s psyche is very much valid, for Huck, in his attempt to run away from customs, is no more realistic, and is completely savage; savagery is what he prefers and strives for. The primitive kind of life is seen by him to be superior and much more agreeable than the civilized one.

An analysis and examination of Twain’s novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* would best illustrate the above-stated assumptions about the past. From the psychological point of view, humans develop superstitious behaviors in the belief of what will happen to them in the future is determined by mere signs and omens. Jarvis (2005) is of the opinion that the behaviorist approach in the Psychological criticism focuses on the behavior of individuals. This “behavioral approach seeks to explain behavior as being learnt, for example by imitating others or by repeating behavior that brought about a reward” (p. 7), added Jarvis. This opinion is very much valid when it comes to approaching literary texts such as *Huckleberry Finn*. In this texts characters behave and act by imitating their ancestors and holding the opinion that what they believed in was true and factual in the past; this makes characters in both stories think that believing in omens is rewarding and will protect them from future dangers or menaces. Therefore, we find major characters in both narratives prone to superstitions. People who lived in the past were simple and primitive; they, very little, questioned their existence by thinking rationally. The paper also tries to examine how the actions of certain characters are determined by their superstitious beliefs, and this illustrates the idea that individuals in these two literary texts are not free to act and are controlled by the unknown.

Conclusion

As has been seen in the discussion, magic and the illusion in both *Huckleberry Finn* to create the belief that Fate controls man’s life. They determine his destiny and make it very difficult for characters to avoid it, or think independently. Man is seen as resigned when future action is concerned. When something good happens, characters often reward themselves for their achievements, but when something bad happens, they often blame fate and supreme power or bad luck. Meanwhile, it can be deduced that influence of the supernatural would be less if man is not swayed by the evil forces around him. The supernatural elements and illusion; however, gives the narratives a rich texture that raises them to a cosmic dimension. Twain himself was certain that the belief in illusion and supernatural beings was common among slaves and children in the West, even the children and low people also believed in evil and magic. With

the introduction of the supernatural company, the authors invest their stories with a moral dignity and maturity at the end, and Jim and Huck both achieve freedom.

Characters in this story think that, whatever they do or think of, are divinely controlled; they think they are helpless beings, and they need to submit to whatever the future holds for them through the supernatural forces. According to Hawkes (1977), the evil things done. This opinion is valid, but one should bear in mind that man is also free to act and make decisions; it is not always fate that determines his actions. The research also concluded that the people of the past were superstitious and less realistic than people in the 21st. Century. They used to believe in omens, superstitions, luck, etc, and this was common to them and they very much surrendered to it.

References

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