



Expression of the “Pride/Hubris Motif in English Literature”

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Abstract: In the scientific article, the issues leading to the expression of the Pride and Hubris are discussed in detail. How writers use the personality pride in their works, how they can be different from each other in various literary works have been identified and suggestion have been developed.

Keywords: literature, characters, pride, hubris, literary works, personality, motif.

INTRODUCTION

It is emphasized that all people have their own positive character traits and, of course, negative flaws and defects. If we look at human life, it can be clearly seen that the bad aspects of the character outweigh the good ones. In particular, Pride is a character trait that can characterize any person, sometimes in a positive light, but often in a negative light. Of all our innate passions, pride is especially difficult to overcome. Because, no matter how much we close it, no matter how much we fight with it, no matter how much we try to kill it, it lives with us and sometimes even goes overboard and shows itself.

On the other hand, It is proven fact that ‘hubris’ is the extreme amount of pride that can create a character. Mostly it is used to describe the character of humans who were so overconfident that they believed they could become godlike. Differences between these two terms in literature are that pride is simply pleasure taken in one’s accomplishments or accomplishments of another person, hubris is pride multiplied until it is out of proportion. So, it is difficult to imagine literature without pride and hubris.

In literature, our writers have referred to this topic in many cases when revealing the personality of the character. Especially in world literature, the themes of "pride", "dignity", and "hubris" are widespread, and we can observe it in the works of many of our writers. For example, if we take the main characters of Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman, in the play, "pride" is an obstacle that must be overcome in order to achieve true happiness, otherwise it will ultimately lead to a fatal fate described as a feeling of being.

The story takes the reader into the world of the Willy Lomans family. The work was created by the author by reflecting the memories of the main characters along with the real scenes of the work. During the play, readers observe the narrow-mindedness of the main character and his stubbornness to overcome his pride.

Willie is proud of his sons Biff and Happy, especially Biff. Willy comments on his sons: "Therefore I thank Almighty God that you are both built like Adonis." "I'm a New Englander. I'm very important in New England. It was once a significant seller, but not anymore. Willy lives in his own world of significance. But Willy doesn't understand the truth of the matter. Once Biff sees her in a hotel with another woman and she leaves home to live alone. Everything that happens to Willy around him shows the audience that he is desperate and really stuck in his memories. But despite this, Willy is full of hope bordering on despair.

Another story describing the moral and social aspects of 19th-century England, "Attitude and Pride", shows the theme of pride in the name of the work. The story tells us about a young lady named Elizabeth and her "adventures" in search of love and marriage. The plot of the story is built around the families of Bennets, Darcys and Bingleys. And as in the previous story, we have one main character to be proud of, Mr. Darcy. At the beginning of the novel, he appears to the reader as obnoxious and arrogant, refusing to dance with Elizabeth. And his arrogance is described in chapter 3, "He is tolerable; but not handsome enough to tempt me; and I do not jest at present to influence young ladies who are despised by other men. Better go back to your partner and enjoy his smile, because you're wasting your time with me." (Austen). But this social superiority appears as a major obstacle to overcoming his pride in his later relationship with Elizabeth. "I I fought in vain. It won't happen. I can't contain my feelings. You must let me tell you how much I admire and love you." (Austen) This quote shows Darcy's reaction to Elizabeth's background as he finds the strength to overcome his prejudices.

Our next example is taken from the work "Stone Angel", the story describes the life of a woman named Hagar. As mentioned above, the novel "Stone Angel" by Margaret Lawrence shows the pride and arrogance of the main character. The lines of Hagar describing herself as a six-year-old contain the first hints of impending disaster, and this pride is initially born of her father's success. An old woman develops her pride. Near the end of the story, the story of his life, he realizes how lost he is: "Pride was my desert, and the devil that led me there was fear. I was alone, nothing else, and never free, for I carried my chains within me, and they spread out from me and bound everything I touched. From your hand or from my hand? Nothing can take away these years".

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein is a classic story about the arrogance of playing God. In the novel, Dr. Victor Frankenstein decides to create sentient life in his laboratory, a task that puts him on par with God, the other great creator of life. However, Frankenstein's creation proves impossible to control and his creator is cursed.

Hubris can be found in real life as well as in literature. For example, Hitler was overconfident in waging war and his arrogance cost him the war and his life. For most of World War II, Hitler wisely kept the peace with the Soviet Union in the east while waging a brutal campaign against the Allies in the west. Everything was going so well that Hitler became overconfident and decided to attack the Soviets, opening a second front where millions of German soldiers would die in the war. This hasty decision significantly weakened the Nazi army and ultimately led to the victory of the Allies.

The Titanic is often seen as another true example of arrogance. Advertisements for the ship described her as "practically unsinkable", which may have led to her captain's overconfidence. Many believe that the ship was operated carelessly and that the crew was not careful enough about the icebergs floating near them. In addition, the ship was designed without enough space for a lifeboat, so many of its passengers were doomed to drown in the event of a sinking.

Hubris is a great storytelling device because it connects to what we experience in the real world: when you're overconfident, you make bad decisions. "Pride goes before a fall." We all know people who believe they are unstoppable and make terrible decisions as a result, so stories of hubris seem pretty plausible. They also play on our dislike of arrogance - most cultures view arrogance as an undesirable quality, and stories about arrogance help express this cultural attitude. Along the way, they teach people an important lesson about humility.

The Fall of Icarus is a Greek myth that has been the basis for countless paintings, novels, plays, and other works of art. In the story, Daedalus, an inventor, makes wings in his workshop and gives them to his son Icarus. The wings come with a warning: don't fly too close to the sun or the wax will melt and the wings will fall apart. Unfortunately, Icarus is full of hubristic ambitions and wants to fly as high as possible. Because of this arrogance, Daedalus' warning comes true: the wings melt in the heat of the sun and Icarus falls into the sea.

Frankenstein is not the only hubristic scientist in classical literature. There is also Doctor Faustus, the arrogant scientist from Christopher Marlowe's famous play. Faust believes that he can control the demon and is so hubristic that he is ready to make a deal with the devil - he sells his soul in exchange

for the power of the demon. However, Faust proves no match for the demon's powers, and he is eventually dragged into Hell with no hope of redemption.

In Pacific Rim, Raleigh Becket begins as a man full of arrogance. He's a talented Jaeger pilot who has defeated many kaiju (giant monsters) in his career, and he's so full of confidence that he starts to feel unstoppable. During a battle with an extremely dangerous kaiju, Raleigh becomes embarrassed and allows the creature to stun him. In this case, Raleigh's brother, Yancey, pays for Raleigh's arrogance. Because Raleigh survives the encounter, he has the opportunity to learn and grow, ultimately becoming stronger for the experience.

Luke Skywalker shows arrogance in his decision to leave Dagobah and face Darth Vader alone. Yoda warns him that he is not yet ready for this confrontation, but Luke believes in his abilities and flies off to track down the Sith Lord. Of course, Luke's confidence was overpowered when Vader overpowered him, grabbed his arm, and nearly killed him. However, this is also a modern story, so we can expect a happy ending for the hero. In Luke's case, he gains a new robotic arm and eventually becomes a wiser and stronger man as he is defeated by Vader.

A simple example of hubris can be seen in the Aesop fable "The Boy Who Cried Wolf". In this popular children's story, the boy's extreme confidence that people would come to his rescue any time he cried out for help led to his downfall. For when a wolf finally appeared, no one believed his was in danger due to his previous false alarms. Besides, it can be found a lot of hubris examples in modern literature, as well. For instance, Lance Armstrong is one of the best real-life examples of hubris. A man who once was praised for surviving cancer and continuing a successful athletic career is now no longer trusted due to his dishonesty. His use of performance enhancing drugs and dishonesty regarding his career is viewed by many as examples of Armstrong's extreme arrogance.

Another modern example of hubris is in Disney's *The Emperor's New Groove*. In this play, the protagonist, Kuzco, faces a great deal of trials due to his hubris namely, his excessive pride blinds him to the fact that his trusted advisor is actually planning to kill him in order to rule his kingdom. Luckily, he was turned into a llama and was able to learn the error of his ways through the help of a common villager. In the end he rids himself of excess pride and becomes charitable to the people of his kingdom.

In the examples from the novels, it is clear that pride is a vice, regardless of whether it has a positive or negative quality. It is clear that it does more harm than any advantages. Once upon a time, pride was a positive characteristic of high society people, but concepts have changed and pride, fueled by prejudice, has now become a widespread way of thinking. By including characters with hubris, the reader is able to learn the dangers of having excessive pride. Often times, these characters lose their lives or power due to this trait, therefore, it presents the reader with the dangerous consequences that may come from not retaining empathy in one's character. While in mature pieces lives may be lost, in many children's stories, the character's learn the error of the ways in turn teach young readers valuable lessons.

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