

ABSTRACT

Wijaya, A.B. (2001). *Romanticism: Its Contribution in Revealing Social Criticisms As Reflected Through the Main Characters of Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

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This thesis discusses *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, a novel written by Robert Louis Stevenson. The reason for writing this thesis derives from the writer's curiosity to know more deeply about the literary style used in the novel and the novel's social criticisms. There are two problems the writer wants to answer in this thesis: (1) How is Romanticism reflected on the characterization of the main characters, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde? and (2) What are the novel's criticisms toward the social condition in that period through the main characters?

Based on the problems above, this study is aimed to describe the main characters of the novel in order to know the elements of Romanticism and how Romanticism reflected through the main characters. Another goal of this study is to find out the criticisms toward the social condition of Britain during the late 19th century.

In order to achieve the aims of the study, the method which is employed here is library research. The primary source of this study is taken from the novel itself, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Meanwhile, the secondary sources are obtained from several books on literature and sources on the sociocultural-historical background of the novel from the internet. Quotations and statements from certain experts are also adapted to support and clarify some important ideas. Pooley's critical literary theory, i.e. *England in Literature*, is used to understand the condition of Britain during the late 19th century. This theory is also supported by Rohrberger and Woods' Sociocultural-Historical Approach since the novel is written based on sociocultural-historical facts.

Throughout the analysis, firstly it is concluded that the elements of Romanticism as the novel's literary style stresses on two things: feelings and imaginations which are able to explore and reveal the mind and the desire of its main characters, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, in attempt to gain the freedom. Secondly, the writer discovers that the characters of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde also play an important role in revealing the novel's criticisms. The class distinction and the strict rules of society create the attitude of hypocrisy among people of the middle-class, which is reflected through the figure of Dr. Jekyll. Meanwhile, Mr. Hyde is the hidden character within Dr. Jekyll, who is created to become a means for Dr. Jekyll to be free from all strict rules so that he is able to gain his pleasures without jeopardizing his reputation as a nobleman. The writer finds out that this novel tries to voice its criticisms toward the social condition of Britain in the late 19th century on the aspect of class distinction in society brings disadvantages to

the people of lower-class and the strict rules of society which create the attitude of hypocrisy among the people of middle-class.

Finally, the writer suggests a further research which is possibly conducted by future researchers. In addition to this, there is also a suggestion for the implementation of teaching English especially for teaching Book Report using *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* as the source.