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Description of Human Stoicism in the Novel "Robinson Crusoe" by Daniel Defoe

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ANNOTATION

This article will discuss the theme of human stoicism in the worldwide known novel written by Daniel Defoe. All analysis made on this theme will be presented.

KEYWORDS: «Robinson Crusoe», human stoicism, Daniel Defoe.

*“Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to,
with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present.”*

— *Marcus Aurelius, Meditations*

1. Introduction

Because of its complexity and lack of coherence, human nature has always been studied. It is generally thought to be egotistical, self-centered, and only concerned with making money for himself. In addition to these drawbacks, many rights were thought to belong to humans because humans are different from animals and have a reason for being. One of the qualities that makes people free and able to judge their own circumstances is reason. Philosophers from the seventeenth century John Locke and Thomas Hobbes are well-known for their political theories on human nature and the evolution of social societies and governments as a result. Their focus is on how human psychology and mentality have evolved from the natural world in modern societies.

These characteristics are evident in Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe and can be examined in this way because Defoe's views on human nature are similar to those of these two philosophers. Throughout the process

of creating governmental societies, we observe the human condition in various political stages. Robinson Crusoe's character's individualism and egotism, as well as his fears and doubts, which perfectly portray human nature, can be recognized. Besides, Jonathan Quick's Gulliver's Movements, which was composed as a parody on human instinct in a similar period with Robinson Crusoe, likewise brings up and condemns various feelings in human brain science. I will attempt to zero in on the issue of human instinct in various political stages in Robinson Crusoe for certain near models from Gulliver's Movements.

2. Literature review

In the start of the text, we see Robinson Crusoe in the family and society, and in an inconspicuous insubordinate and nonconformist circumstance. He perfectly exemplifies human nature's individualism. He says, "I should certainly run away from my master before my time was up, and go to sea; " He wants to be free" . He constantly considers leaving the country, expanding his business, and purchasing more property. The novel's narrative level, first-person narration, reveals the individualist approach as well. He talks about everything from his own perspective, being self-centered like everyone else. He is able to travel abroad by ship, but he decides not to because he is afraid of a powerful storm in the sea. During the storm, he considers returning to his family, but when the storm passes, he reconsiders. This demonstrates the obstinate and fixated nature of human nature that he cannot stop thinking about leaving. All of Robinson Crusoe's egotism can be seen as criticism of other people's egotism. The establishment of a political society begins with his residence in Brazil. He has his own life, job, and a small community of neighbors. He is exceptionally aggressive about growing his business and manor, and he goes to Africa for slave exchange. When he returns from the island after a long absence, he experiences feelings of loneliness and isolation in both Brazil and England. His strong sense of individualism is demonstrated by the fact that he perceives himself as being alone in society.

Through Gulliver's character and travels, Gulliver's Travels may also be evaluated as a representation of individualism. Contrary to Crusoe, Gulliver is an individualist because of his hatred of man and his preference for going to different places. However, Gulliver does not have a rebellious nature or an itch to escape. Particularly the part in which he goes to Lilliput and the way that he is greater than the residents of this spot represents the tendency of individuals to see themselves better than other individuals.

That Robinson Crusoe gets by and falls onto the island is the consummation of his opportunity that he has consistently wished. He can do whatever he wants in this location. Crusoe enjoys the complete freedom from social constraints that Rousseau yearned for on his island—there are no family ties or civil authorities interfering with his individual autonomy. 96). Instead of praying that he has survived, he ruins himself in vain when he reaches the shore. That exemplifies humans' lack of gratitude. He then begins to obsessively appreciate the island's ownership and the solitude. He focuses on preserving his life as a man would in the natural environment as soon as he begins to live on the island. The central concepts of Hobbes' and Locke's political philosophy are defense and resistance. He gets the food and other fundamental things from the wreck, and he makes a sanctuary for him and expands it step by step. He establishes a self-sufficient life and establishes a permanent residence on the island.

Locke and Hobbes analyzed many characteristics of human nature that Crusoe demonstrates. "He is always afraid, always cautious," despite the fact that "most modern critics have regarded Crusoe as the embodiment of enterprising, fearless economic man" (Novak, 1962: 23). He is terrified to such an extent by the normal happenings like seismic tremor, serious areas of strength for and. He can't sleep for days because he is afraid of the footprint he sees on the shore. He considers a number of possible affiliations for it. He appears to be afraid of people because he has been so individualistic. Throughout the novel, which depicts human psychology in its purest form, we frequently observe him in fear. It might be meant to demonstrate that people are ill-suited to being alone in nature without other people. In addition, the merciless idea of mankind makes individuals doubt each other.

He generally banters on his condition and chooses what to do cautiously. He uses his reason, which is essential to understanding human nature and preventing violence. In my situation, I consulted several sources, all of which I determined to be appropriate for me" (p. 44). He keeps records and keeps a diary, both of which are attributes of a civilized man's ability to reason and write. He shows his reasonable wit by dividing his condition into good and bad aspects. In light of his circumstance, he makes an effort to be as logical as possible.

Crusoe becomes the owner of the island with his plantation, properties, and home, which he refers to as "my castle," as he expands his settlement there. He believes he is entitled to the island's possessions because he works hard for them, in line with Locke's philosophy. Crusoe asserts that: This was entirely mine; that I was indefeasibly king and lord of this country, had a right to possession, and that if I could convey it, I might inherit it as completely as any lord of a manor in England. p. 76). He eagerly lists his properties whenever he talks about them. Consequently, we comprehend that his property is critical to him for his life in the island. Because of his extreme impatience, he desires immediate results from his work.

3. Discussion

Robinson embodies many of the ideals of the philosophical teachings of Stoicism. The protagonist faces difficulties, but, keeping calm and dignity, overcomes them. It is also characteristic that Crusoe respects the savage Friday, not dividing people by skin color, as was customary in Defoe's time. Loneliness - one of the most difficult tests for Robinson is the test of loneliness. On a desert island, far from civilization and people, the hero began to slowly but surely forget human speech, but with the help of constant exercises and his savage servant, Crusoe managed to keep his mind and remain a full-fledged person.

Frivolity - at the beginning, Robinson seems to us a frivolous madcap, constantly playing with danger. In the end, the ambition of the young Crusoe leads him to a desert island, where the formation of a hero takes place.

The mores of wild tribes - Defoe largely formed in the mass consciousness the image of a classic aborigine from the island - a narrow-minded savage, relying on brute force, who is defeated by an enlightened European who uses his mind.

Defoe's adventure novel taught the reader how to develop a personality that can serve as an example for others. The book "Robinson Crusoe" is about the tabula rasa theory, which was popular during Defoe's time. John Locke, a philosopher, first proposed this idea, which refers to the belief that people are born "like a clean

slate," that is, without any inherent vices or virtues. All of their development is influenced by personal experience and the outside world. The author demonstrated this hypothesis by describing Robinson Crusoe's development as a person. This thought made it conceivable to make European culture more others conscious and open minded towards Friday and such.

The story "Robinson Crusoe" serves as a model for how to react in difficult situations: Do not give up, think clearly, and put in a lot of effort. This work forces you to consider the value of life experience and the knowledge gained from trying new things.

The author also asserts that anyone who possesses intelligence and perseverance can succeed. This is Robinson Crusoe's lesson.

The novel "Robinson Crusoe" gained such a great deal of popularity that it gave rise to the new literary term "robinsonade," which refers to a plot that is based on how a person survives in extreme circumstances. Additionally, the protagonist's name is well-known to the general public. The book was praised enthusiastically by numerous famous authors:

"Robinson Crusoe" was referred to by Jean-Jacques Rousseau as "the most successful treatise on natural education" and. He said that this book was important and useful in his "Emil." He wrote, after reading Defoe's novel: Emil will read this book for the first time; It will occupy a prestigious spot in his entire library for a very long time.

In addition to Crusoe's egotism in the novel, when Crusoe says, "I was removed from all the wickedness of the world here," Defoe may be criticizing human nature. I did not have the pride of life, the lust of the eye, or the lust of the flesh. Robinson Crusoe's character is used once more to criticize humanity's self-centeredness. While he criticizes society, he is unaware of his own nature; This demonstrates his arbitrary identity.

The introduction of human instinct as ruthless and being leaned to battle is given obviously in some portions of Robinson Crusoe. As it is referred to by Locke and Hobbes that individuals are enticed to battle in the circumstance of contention and rivalry. Friday's people, in particular, are a clear representation of the brutality of primitive communities in the natural world. They eat and kill the people they have to fight, which is disgusting to men who are civilized. The primitive patriarchal state of nature gradually gave way to a period of violence, according to Defoe's theory (Novak, 1963: 16). When Crusoe meets Friday for the first time after teaching him English, the first question he asks him is whether or not they fight well. Then, at that point, he continues to get some information about how they beat the adversary. Friday responds eagerly and mentions how well they fight. It's a kind of investigation into how people are motivated to fight and fight and fight.

Crusoe's economic individualism coincides with his complete freedom on the island. He is free to make decisions about his own economic situation, which the society and the government would likely oppose. Because he is already a merchant and is familiar with trade, he portrays the ideal businessman for us. His sensibility is focused on things that are tangible; He is professional; He does his job well; and he meticulously records the outcomes" (Novak, 1996: 157). He grows his own food and breeds his own animals, eventually multiplying them. He starts out on the island with the goods from the shipwreck, so his situation is not entirely primitive but rather capitalist. In Watt's (57: 67) explains that capitalism and economic liberty are thought to be the primary contributors to human nature's tendency toward individualism. Even when Crusoe returns to

England after 28 years on the island, we see that he is financially successful. He discovers that his occupation was gone on by his old neighbor in Brazil, and he has sufficient cash to keep his work and grow it. Additionally, he sends money to his sisters. Crusoe's egotism grows as a result of his freedom and authority in this regard.

A belief in a divine right to property served as the foundation for Defoe's theory of society. Man would have been compelled to expend all of his energy in an individual struggle for survival if God had not granted Adam control over the animals and the land..

In the hours of his thick strict speeches, he questions the presence of the earth, guaranteeing an extraordinary power better than mankind. When he attempts to right his wrongs, he frequently seeks God's assistance, and he believes that God punishes him for his mistakes. "I rejected the voice of Providence, which had mercifully placed me in a posture or station of life wherein I might have been happy and easy," he writes. He becomes more attached to religion and God as a result of the text's numerous religious references. After that, he locates the Bible, keeps it, and reads it most of the time, demonstrating his religious identity. We can comprehend that Defoe goes against the thought of strict independence and opportunity, as he was a moderate Puritan. It is undeniable that religion and civilization are regarded as mutually supportive. As strict doctrines eliminate the crude senses of individuals from their inclination, they make mankind more sensible and insightful specialists. Novak (1957: 23) says that Crusoe thought he was an unreasonable and cruel creature before he realized religion and God's power.

4. Conclusion

Because it is based on the story of one main character, Robinson Crusoe is an excellent work to examine this aspect of human nature because it provides a comprehensive overview of human psychology. Almost all of Hobbes' and Locke's theories about political societies are connected to individualist perspectives. Robinson Crusoe's personal presence throughout the book helps to illustrate human nature and psychology in various contexts.

In this respect, it can be realized how literature and social life are interrelated to each other. The process which started with Renaissance and Humanism brings us to the issue of individualism and the rise of the novel. Ian Watt postulates that the rise of the novel coincides with the birth of a new economic system and social philosophy, suggesting that Robinson's "travels, like his freedom from social ties [...] by making the pursuit of gain a primary motive, economic individualism has much increased the mobility of the individual". As the social incidents shapes literary activities, literature also affects society in different ways.

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