

Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (1850)

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Abstract

Nathaniel Hawthorne is a novelist whose writings have had a significant impact not just on English American literature but also on world literature. "*The Scarlet Letter*" (1850), for example, is a widely popular novel that has been translated into various languages. This novel tells the story of an emotional forbidden love between a pastor Arthur Dimmesdale and a beautiful woman named Hester Prynne, who is considered as inner because she was pregnant by someone other than her husband, and where Dimmesdale's identity as the man responsible for the pregnancy was kept hidden until the end of the story. The story is set in Boston around 1650, during the early years of Puritan colonization, and it underlines the 'Calvinist' fixation with morality, illustrating gender inequality and punishment for transgressions.

Key words: Nathaniel Hawthorne, novel, *The Scarlet Letter*

INTRODUCTION

The Little Mermaid: Nathaniel Hawthorne, an American author, wrote the 1850 historical fiction novel A Romance (Mertania & Amelia, 2020). The novel is about Hester Prynne, a woman who conceives a daughter with a man to whom she is not married and then struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity (Amelia & Daud, 2020). It is set in the Puritan Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1642 to 1649 (Sari & Pranoto, 2021), (Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020b). The book explores concepts of legalism, sin, and guilt through a number of religious and historical allusions (Nindyarini Wirawan, 2018), (Putri & Sari, 2021). One of the first books published in large quantities in the United States was *The Scarlet Letter* (Pranoto, 2021), (Aminatun et al., 2021). When it was first published, it was well-liked and is regarded as a classic piece of American literature. Numerous stage productions, television shows, and movies have been based on the book (Gulö, 2018a), (Istiani & Puspita, 2020). The novelist D. H. Lawrence called *The Scarlet Letter* a "perfect work of the American imagination," and critics have called it a masterpiece.

The novel takes place in a Puritan village in New England (Suprayogi, Samanik, Novanti, et al., 2021), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020a). The principal character is Hester Prynne, a young lady who has borne a child outside of a stable family structure (Amelia, 2021), (Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020). Hester thinks she is a widow, but her husband Roger Chillingworth is still alive when he arrives in New England and hides his identity (Kuswoyo & Siregar, 2019). He discovers that as retribution for her adultery, his wife is required to wear the red letter 'A' on her dress. Chillingworth develops an obsession with figuring out who Hester's lover is after she refuses to reveal his identity (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021), (Iriawan & Fithriasari, 2018). Chillingworth continues to afflict him when he discovers that the man in question is Arthur Dimmesdale (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020a), a pious young minister who is the leader of those urging her to name the child's father (Fakhrurozi & Adrian, 2020). Dimmesdale becomes increasingly ill as a result of guilt (Suprayogi, Puspita, et al., 2021), (Cahyaningsih & Pranoto, 2021).

The heroine, Hester, is shown to be independent and never truly repentant for her adultery with the minister; She believes that their deep love for one another inspired their actions (Fadilah & Kuswoyo, 2021). She is initially derided, but over time, many of her critics are silenced by her compassion and dignity (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020b). Chillingworth's irrational desire for vengeance ultimately renders him morally reprehensible (Samanik & Lianasari, 2018), (Puspita & Amelia, 2020). Dimmesdale dies in Hester's arms after publicly confessing his adultery, broken by his own guilt. As she gets ready to start a new life in Europe with her daughter Pearl, Hester is the only person brave enough to face the future (Fakhrurozi & Adrian, 2021), (Kurniawan et al., 2018). Hester returns to New England after a number of years to continue bearing the scarlet letter (Wahyudin, 2018). "ON A FIELD, SABLE, THE LETTER A, GULES" is engraved on both her and Dimmesdale's tombstones after she passed away (Suprayogi, 2019).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Gold-colored thread has been finely embroidered on the scarlet letter A that Hester is required to wear (Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020a), (Abidin et al., 2022). As both an identification of disgrace and a flawlessly fashioned human relic, it mirrors the numerous restrictions in the novel (Kuswoyo & Audina, 2020), like those among request and offense, progress and wild, and adulthood and youth (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020b), (Suprayogi, Samanik, & Chaniago, 2021). The more society endeavors to keep out rebellious enthusiasm, the more it supports the split among appearance and reality (Ahmad et al., 2021). The ostensibly respectable members of the community frequently exhibit the greatest depravity, while the apparent sinners frequently exhibit the greatest virtue (Suprayogi & Eko, 2020), (Journal et al., 2021).

The novel also creates fascinating connections between psychological repression and social oppression (Oktaviani & Mandasari, 2020). The pathology of a society that needs to scapegoat and alienate its so-called sinners can be seen in Dimmesdale's physical and mental manifestations of his illness, as well as his affliction caused by his guilty secret (Gulö, 2018b). Personal integrity eventually manages to escape social control. The Scarlet Letter effectively captures the emergence of individualism and self-reliance from America's Puritan and conformist roots, perhaps more than any other book.

METHOD

In this study, the writers utilized library research techniques and subjective depiction. This study utilized a subjective methodology zeroing in on story understanding, portrayal, and examination. Subjective means examination dependent principally upon a constructivist viewpoint with respect to a singular's encounter that has been by and large or socially built. The information hotspot for this study was a novel entitled Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. Information assortment strategies were performed by exploring or perusing sources in books, the web, as well as in past exploration reports, and others. Most understudies can find their assets in the library, information on the main libraries, experience with the chapter by chapter guide and other reference works, about complex is surely a fundamental apparatus for pretty much every understudy of writing. The information examination procedure utilized in this study is clear investigation. To help this information, the specialists looked for important information from different sources. Information investigation is the methodical course of considering and orchestrating information from meetings, perceptions, and records by coordinating the information and concluding what is

significant and which should be contemplated. also, make determinations that are straightforward.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the frame story of *The Scarlet Letter*, Hawthorne finds a package that contains a brief narrative about the woman who created and wore that "character," as well as an ancient piece of embroidery that he recognizes as the letter "A." The narrative was written by a predecessor in the Customs House where Hawthorne works. Hawthorne reminds us that the written and the interpretable are the foundations of literary character, the fictional person, by beginning with A. *The Scarlet Letter* is a book about a character Hester Prynne, the unforgettable protagonist but it is also a book about what a character means.

The first of many meanings of "character" are introduced in the lengthy Customs House prologue. The prologue is a "gallery of Custom-House portraits" (21), a description of the odd people with whom Hawthorne works, including the man who has lost his entire family but thinks of nothing but cheerful gourmandizing. In conversation, a "character" is an eccentric, an oddball who is known by sight throughout a community. Indeed, these are "characters" in the common sense. Additionally, the narrator's initial conception of Hester Prynne as a character of this kind makes this first meaning of character significant.

There are two perspectives on every story: as the logical progression of a conclusion from a premise and as something influenced and altered by the author's personal characteristics. If the latter possesses genius, his portion of the outcome is comparable to that of nature in a work of human art, providing it with everything except for its abstract form. The majority of fiction writers, on the other hand, tend to diminish rather than enhance the beauty of their concept's abstract form if any existed at all. In any case, there is no better way to judge the value of a writer's contribution to a work than to look at it in its "prenatal" state. How much of *The Scarlet Letter*, for instance, was already finished before Hawthorne touched it? The historical time period is roughly in the middle of the seventeenth century. The stage properties, to put it another way, are well-suited to serve as romantic narrative background and furniture. A gloomy but ferocious religious sect, pioneers in an uncharted territory surrounded by the wolf and Indians but still harboring fond memories of England and English customs and prejudices; minuscule in numbers but mighty in spirit; with only the Bible and the sword for cultivation; victims, in addition, of a bloody, ominous superstition; such characters and locations provide admirable relief and color to a tale of human weakness and sorrow. Therefore, the figure of a woman with the red letter on her bosom stands in such circumstances. In any case, here we come to a respite, and should seek the creator for the subsequent stage.

CONCLUSION

This novel demonstrates that love is more than just beautiful things; it is also about taking chances and making sacrifices, even when it is a sin. I used a range of characters to describe man as a location of guilt and sin. The behavior of each character is a representative of human nature that exists in society, and this story also emphasizes difficulties and habits in society that still occur. Some human principles that can be derived from the story include the need for a person to be accountable for his actions. As Hester did as a sort of accountability for the sins she had committed. Although Hester's sin was terrible, she was able to make peace with her self and live a peaceful life by accepting the consequences and accepting responsibility with grace. He even wore the scarlet letter,

which was etched on his tombstone, till the end of his life. From the figure Hester Prynne, I want to convey that humans are not God, and that as flawed creatures, we should be more sympathetic with humans rather than criticizing them.

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