

Analysis of Nathaniel Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter

Wulan Agustin¹
Dion Tira Erlangga²
English Education

diontiraerlangga@gmail.com

Abstract

There are a number of different definitions of religion, according to some experts. "Belief in Spiritual Beings is defined as "religion," for example." By religion propitiation or conciliation of powers greater than man, which are thought to lead and regulate the path of nature and human existence," according to Edward B. Tylor's Primitive Culture. "[Religion is] individual men's sentiments, deeds, and experiences in their solitude, inasmuch as they see themselves to relate to what they would deem the divine" (James George Frazer, The Golden Bough). The Varieties of Religious Experience (William James) As a result, religion is ingrained in human culture. Religion, according to Anthony Giddens, is "a central part of human experience, influencing how we perceive and react to the environments in which we live."

Key words: Analysis, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Scarlet Letter

INTRODUCTION

If we talk about religion in America, we will think a lot of religion there, The United States is regarded as the world's most religiously diverse country (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020), (Suprayogi & Eko, 2020). Non-Christian religions represented, in addition to Judaism, include Islam, Hinduism, Baha'i, Unitarian Universalism, Sikhism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and assorted Native American practices. In the U.S. at the start of the twenty-first century, the principal religions were Christianity (Catholicism and Protestantism, which has numerous denominations), Islam, and Judaism (Puspita & Amelia, 2020). (Campbell An introduction to American culture. Routledge; 168) Hawthorne's novel has a religious theme which is basically a very sensitive theme. This story focuses on puritan beliefs that are relevant to the history of religion in the United States (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021), (Rido et al., 2020). In the journal Introduction to American culture. Routledge mentioned that Puritans like Winthrop envisaged a community in which life would be guided by God's will (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020), and there would be close links between civil government and religious authority (Suprayogi, Samanik, et al., 2021), (Fakhrurozi & Puspita, 2021). The conflict as where the love story is more focused on the risks they have to bear and about how humans view sin, how to have the courage to confess, judge and accept the shame of every human being (Qodriani, 2021). The success criticizes the way the human pattern views a sin and shame (Endang Woro Kasih, 2018), which according to the author is based on the beliefs and culture of American society at that time or can also be called beliefs and practices.

According to (Cahyaningsih & Pranoto, 2021) in the article (THE BOISI CENTER PAPERS ON RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES Religious Practice in the United States) mentioned that "Beliefs and practices are related and mutually formative. Beliefs clearly shape religious practices (Suprayogi, 2019), (Puspita, n.d.), while engaging in particular practices often transforms and deepens people's beliefs (Journal et al., 2021). Considering specific beliefs and practices is a useful means of understanding and

comparing religious traditions and communities“ (Gulö & Rahmawelly, 2019), (Fithratullah, 2019). This story of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *Scarlet Letter* takes the background of Puritan Boston. Puritans it self is like Winthrop envisaged a community in which life would be guided by God’s will, and there would be close links between civil government and religious authority (Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018). (An introduction to American culture). Puritanism had begun to lose its energies by the end of the seventeenth century (Al Falaq et al., 2021), but it bequeathed to subsequent American culture a sense of the importance of God's purpose for the nation (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019), (Teknologi et al., 2021).

The main female character, Hester Prynne, gives birth to a child without a father (Sari & Oktaviani, 2021), (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020). Her husband followed her to Boston but there was no news for 2 years and Hester gave birth to a daughter (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), (Pranoto, 2021). It was at that time that people believed that Hester had an affair with another man and gave birth to an illegitimate child (Fakhrurozi & Adrian, 2021). Seeing this, the puritans got angry and punished Hester to stand on the stage in the middle of the city wearing a red 'A' on the back. A sign for 'infidelity' or a lifelong infidelity to bear. After a few years Hester was released from prison and chose to live in a remote corner of the city that was peaceful and quiet among the puritans (Asia & Samanik, 2018), (Suprayogi, Puspita, et al., 2021). At one point Hester to ask for the help of Arthur Dimmesdale the young priest who was loved by the puritans in Boston to help him not be separated by his children. Dimmesdale, on the other hand, seems to be under tremendous mental stress over the sin he has committed (Sari & Wahyudin, 2019) but is unable to express it publicly because of the image (MULIYAH et al., 2021). Dimmesdale himself always whipped himself in the back to punish himself for the sin of having an affair with Hester.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Since it was the first, critics tend to label *The Scarlet Letter* as the most impressive of these larger productions (Sutanto et al., 2014). It exudes a mysterious quality; While working on this "most prolix among the tales," the author was unaware that it was alive with the miraculous vitality of genius (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2020), (Suprayogi, 2021). It is great, not out of malice but out of necessity, combining the subtle organization of a rose with the strength and substance of an oak (Gulö, 2018). It gets to the bottom of the issue and draws some unexpected conclusions, but only one in twenty readers would understand them (Yulianti & Sulistyawati, 2021), (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021). Even though the story's literal meaning is in complete agreement with the spirit, it hides that spirit from the literal eye. The depth can be chosen by the reader in inches, but only a tall man will reach the bottom. At the end of the story, their plan to leave seems to have failed because Chillingworth has figured it all out (Amelia & Daud, 2020). The public who knew it were angry and led Hester and Pearl to the stage, but at the same time Dimmesdale also came forward and revealed the biggest secret he had been hiding so far (Ngestirosa et al., 2020), (Putri & Sari, 2021). A red mark with the letter 'A' was clearly engraved on the surface of the skin right nearby. During this time Dimmesdale also carved out a transfer to feel the same punishment and shame as Hester and Pearl.

Based on the story, some values that can be taken are how a person needs to be responsible for what he has done (Oktaviani & Sari, 2020). Like what Hester did as a form of accountability for the risk of sin taken, so she was able to make peace with herself and live

a quiet life (Fakhrurozi et al., 2021). He even sincerely wore the scarlet letter until the end of his life which was engraved on the tombstone. On the other hand, Dimmesdale is present as a symbol of human nature which also has fear and regret for not being able to act like Hester. In fact, the good images and praise given to Dimmesdale only made him feel even more guilty.

METHOD

The authors of this study utilized subjective depiction and methods of library research. The focus of this study, which employed a subjective methodology, was story comprehension, portrayal, and examination. The term "subjective" refers to an examination of an individual's experience that is primarily based on a constructivist perspective and has been largely or socially constructed. This study's information hotspot was a novel called *Obama's Dream from My Father*. Using books, the internet, previous exploration reports, and other sources, information assortment strategies were carried out. The majority of students can find their resources in the library, including information on the major libraries, experience with the chapter-by-chapter guide, and other reference works. Understanding complex is unquestionably an essential tool for virtually every student of writing. This study's method of information analysis is straightforward investigation. The specialists searched numerous sources for significant information to support this information. The methodical process of considering and orchestrating information from meetings, perceptions, and records by coordinating the information and determining what is significant and should be considered is known as information investigation. Also, make decisions that are easy to understand.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The scarlet letter punishment is a historical fact; Additionally, a book like *The Scarlet Letter* would undoubtedly never have been written if it weren't for the ready symbol that was presented to the author's hand. However, Hawthorne's scattered ideas about the topic were brought together and crystallized in organic form thanks to the symbol. It was evidently also a source of inspiration, offering up new aspects and characteristics of the truth a sort of witch hazel for finding spiritual gold. One of Hawthorne's favorite plot devices was a figurative emblem that was casually introduced but gradually infused with supernatural qualities. Imagine the book without the scarlet letter, and we might see its value in this situation. It doesn't really matter much to the story.

However, the scarlet letter elevates the subject matter to a spiritual level. It's the manner and concentration of the entire argument. Poetry emerges from prose as a result. In addition to enhancing the gloomy picturesqueness of the moral landscape, it serves as a formula for conveying concepts that are otherwise too subtle to be expressed in words. It burns on the wearer's breast, shines brightly along her path, keeps her apart from the rest of the world, and serves as a mystic talisman to show her the guilt that is hidden in other people's hearts. It is the Black Man's mark and the infant Pearl's first toy. The scarlet letter emerges as the main character as the story progresses, casting a sinister glow over everything. Its resemblance is reproduced on the minister's breast by a terrible miracle, where "God's eye beheld it! It was the object of all the angels' pointing! The devil was well aware of it, and he repeatedly touched it with his burning finger to worry about it! And finally, to Dimmesdale's wild imagination, its specter appears even in the midnight sky, as if heaven had contracted the disease of his so zealously concealed sin.

The scarlet letter is firmly ingrained in each and every sentence and chapter of the book that bears its name. However, the average novelist probably wouldn't have been able to handle it. Instead of helping the uninitiated, Prospero's wand only tripped him up and scorched his fingers. There is a difference of kind, not degree, between genius and every other mental quality.

CONCLUSION

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. However, we must look to the author for the next step as we pause here.

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