

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analysing the social conflicts in Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray, I come to the conclusion that the social conflicts in this novel are very important. The conflicts are worth analysing because they are quite realistic, which means that such conflicts frequently take place in real life.

As the protagonist, Dorian Gray experiences a lot of social conflicts with the other characters in the novel. The first social conflict between Dorian Gray and Sibyl Vane happens because Dorian has been disappointed with Sibyl's performance and this makes him leave Sibyl. Dorian Gray also has social conflicts with Basil Hallward, his best friend, who always tries to make Dorian become a good man. It is a pity that in the end Dorian kills Basil in order that no one will know his secret.

The social conflict between Dorian Gray and Alan Campbell happens because Alan refuses to help Dorian to get rid of the evidence of Dorian's crime, but Dorian finally succeeds in making Alan help him after he threatens him that he will expose Alan's past secret. The last social conflict between Dorian Gray and James Vane happens because James Vane wants to revenge his sister's death,

but Dorian manages to escape from James Vane's anger by deceiving him. All the social conflicts that Dorian has with these four characters are realistic.

The causes of the conflicts are also realistic. The novelist manages to reveal the causes of the conflicts so convincingly that the reader feels that although The Picture of Dorian Gray is a science fiction, the causes of the conflicts are likely to be found in real life. One's wish to have a perfect sweetheart, one's inability to always perform well, one's unwillingness to get rid of the evidence of other people's guilt, one's eagerness to revenge his sister's death, and the other causes of the conflicts in this novel really deserve to be analysed since they are all realistically presented.

So far as the resolutions are concerned, we can also conclude that the novelist is very skilful at presenting them. Dorian leaves Sibyl because of her bad performance, the murder of Basil, Alan's agreement to get rid of the evidence because he is afraid that Dorian will reveal his secret, Dorian's deception which saves him from James Vane's anger, are obviously plausible.

From the analysis in Chapter Two, it is also evident that Dorian has conflicts mostly with Basil Hallward because he is his closest friend who keeps telling him not to believe Lord Henry Wotton's idea that eternal youth is more important than anything in the world. This belief is actually the root of all the evil deeds that Dorian later commits.

There are certain things that are not logical in the novel, namely Dorian's eternal youth and the figure in the portrait which changes. However, since this thesis is concerned with the social conflicts that the protagonist experiences, it would be irrelevant to discuss this particular aspect.

As a final comment, I would like to say that one should not worship youthfulness or appearance excessively since one's personality and behaviour are more important in life. In other words, virtue or great moral goodness is more important than youthfulness or a wonderful appearance. The fact that Dorian Gray worships youthfulness and appearance finally causes his own tragic downfall.