

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analysing the theme of H. G. Wells' novel Love and Mr. Lewisham, I come to the conclusion that the novelist succeeds in revealing the theme through Mr. Lewisham, the protagonist of the novel.

Wells has skilfully portrayed the characteristics of Mr. Lewisham before and after Mr. Lewisham has met and fallen in love with Ethel, a typist who comes from London. When we compare Wells' own life and the changes that Mr. Lewisham experiences in the novel, we see many similarities. The life of Mr. Lewisham, the protagonist, obviously represents the novelist's own life. The way Wells studied, learned foreign languages, and worked, was very similar to the way Mr. Lewisham does those things. Wells' efforts to gain achievement in the field of education and to pursue his career were similar to those of Mr. Lewisham. The difference lies in the fact that Wells finally succeeded in becoming a well-known writer whereas Mr. Lewisham fails to attain his goals because he sacrifices a lot for the sake of Ethel, the woman he loves.

Wells reveals several things to show that Mr. Lewisham is willing to sacrifice for love. The most important sacrifices are:

1. He is willing to neglect his studies for the sake of Ethel so that he cannot achieve his goals to gain a university degree and to be a lecturer. This shows that Mr. Lewisham sacrifices his ambition for the sake of love.
2. He works much harder although the burden is more than he could bear. This is to fulfill the family's needs, which he otherwise would be unable to meet. In this case, he also sacrifices because he does not want Ethel to be involved in the séances which he considers to be some sort of wicked trickery. This apparently shows that Mr. Lewisham sacrifices his main principle of honesty for the sake of love. The novelist also exposes Mr. Lewisham's readiness to go against his own principle through Mr. Lewisham's action in forgiving Mr. Chaffery, Ethel's stepfather, who cheats in Mr. Lagune's performances.
3. Mr. Lewisham's leaving his beloved mother, who actually needs his care and attention very much, also illustrates a great sacrifice that Mr. Lewisham is willing to do for the sake of meeting his darling, Ethel.
4. Another obvious sacrifice that Mr. Lewisham makes is his readiness to end his friendship with Miss Heydinger, who is a close friend of his and his colleague, with whom he frequently shares interests. He does this to prevent his wife from being jealous.

The theme of the novel, which is "One is willing to sacrifice for love", is evidently revealed through the changes that Mr. Lewisham has undergone. Wells shows that Mr. Lewisham is a dynamic character who changes as the story

develops. Love has changed Mr. Lewisham from being ambitious for studying into being ambitious for pursuing love. Mr. Lewisham also changes from an honest man into an unscrupulous person. That Mr. Lewisham is ready to neglect his relationship with his mother and to end his friendship with Miss Heydinger also gives ample evidence that Mr. Lewisham's characteristic has changed.

Ethel, the woman whom Mr. Lewisham loves, is very likely based on Isabel, Wells' cousin, whom he loved and married but later divorced. However, there is not anything about the divorce in the novel. This is in line with the love theme of the novel that Mr. Lewisham really loves Ethel and makes every effort to sacrifice for her in order to maintain his good relationship with her.