
**EXPRESSION OF THE GOTHIC FICTION IN “ THE PICTURE OF
DORIAN GRAY”BY OSCAR WILDE.**

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Abstract

This article aims to illustrate the gothic literature formed by the classical literary form of the gothic novel, which developed in England in the last quarter of the XVIII century. The contrasts of the authentic, reasonable, reality-oriented life depicted in the works of various writers with a world freed from everyday life to fantastic, with a gloomy flavor and plot, fanned by historical romance, and gothic atmosphere. Oscar Wilde undoubtedly occupies a place among writers who have devoted himself to the gothic creating skills by his novel "The Portrait of Dorian Gray", in which an outlandish portrait has been aging for many years instead of a man wallowing in all possible vices and crimes, but not losing his youth beauty and freshness. The novel is examined the relationship between art and reality, emphasized the complex relationship between ethics and aesthetics, as well as the relationship between the artist, subject and the resulting image on canvas.

Key words

gothic literature, depicted, plot, historical, creating, crime, youth beauty.

Introduction. The Gothic novel appeared in the British Isles. 20th-century notable english writers in the Gothic tradition include Algernon Blackwood, William Hope Hodgson, M. R. James, Hugh Walpole, and Marjorie Bowen. In America, pulp magazines such as "Weird Tales" republished classic Gothic horror tales of the last century by authors such as Poe, Arthur Conan Doyle and Edward Bulwer-Lytton, and printed new stories by contemporary authors featuring both traditional and new horror. The most significant of these was Lovecraft, who also wrote an outline of the Gothic and supernatural horror tradition in his *Supernatural Horror in Literature* (1936), and also developed a myth that would influence Gothic and modern horror in the 21st century. Lovecraft's protector,

Robert Bloch, contributed to *Weird Tales* and wrote *Psycho* (1959), which was based on the classic interests of the genre.⁴⁰

Through of these, the Gothic genre as such has given way to modern horror fiction, which some literary critics regard as a branch of Gothic, although others use this term to encompass the entire genre. Horace Walpole in 1764 offered to the public a completely new work at that time called "The Castle of Otranto". The plot developed in a real castle in the south of Italy. The son of the owner of the estate was found dead on his own wedding day. An ancient helmet from heavy armor fell on him. This strange event is the first, but not the only one. A series of subsequent mystical incidents inspires horror and suggests thoughts of the supernatural. The next famous work "Portrait of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde, in which an outlandish portrait has been aging for many years instead of a man, meanwhile witnessing in all possible vices and crimes, but not losing his youthful beauty and freshness. An unexpected and powerful climax comes when Dorian Gray, having become a murderer, wants to destroy the portrait, because the changes on it betray the moral degradation of the owner. He cuts the portrait with a knife, then terrible screams are heard, something falls, and when the servants come the next day, they find the portrait in all its original splendor. "There was a dead old man lying on the floor in a tuxedo and with a knife in his heart. He was gray-haired, wrinkled, pathetic in appearance. Only by paying attention to the rings on his fingers, the servants realized who it was." The last English Gothic writer, in fact, can be called Bram Stoker, who created many truly terrible plots in a series of novels, the poor style of which reduces their possible effect.

Analisis. The analysis of the "Portrait of Dorian Gray" contain the beginning of the characteristics of the motives of the work. In the world literature, the theme of beauty occupies a prominent place. It is also revealed in Wilde's novel. In the context of this topic, the problems of love, human vices, old age, etc. are raised. The main characters of the work are Dorian Gray and Lord Henry. The images of the artist Basil, Sybil and James Vane also play an important role in the implementation of the problem. At the beginning of the novel, the reader meets Dorian Gray. This is a very handsome young man, from whom the artist Basil painted a portrait. In Basil's workshop, the young man met Lord Henry. Here he confessed that he would very much like the portrait to age, but it always remained beautiful.⁴¹ Gothic style is the central theme of "The Picture of Dorian Grey" which is considered one of the best works of Oscar Wilde.

⁴⁰ Carol Margaret "Gothic Literature in 1764–1824years" Cardiff: [University of Wales Press](#), 2009.

⁴¹ "The Picture of Dorian Gray" London ; New York. N.Y. Penguin, 2003

It is the work of crime and punishment, the confrontation of man and his fate and it performs a variety of functions: it serves as a means of testing the character of the hero, directs the course of events, contributes to the creation of a Gothic flavor in the novel. In this work, the author wants to combine the story of incredible events and the majestic manner of narration characteristic of ancient novels with the careful portrayal of characters and the struggle of feelings and passions that distinguishes or should distinguish a novel of modern times. This fictional novel was fairly appreciated not only as the new emerged gothic and successful attempt to create a new literary genre, but as one of the exemplary works of entertaining prose. Writer's goal was more significant and more difficult to achieve. His intention was to paint such a picture of the domestic way of life and customs of feudal times, which would be plausible enough and at the same time full of movement due to the participation in the action of supernatural forces, in the existence of which the unenlightened society of that era believed. So, perhaps, the author did not know how to keep the reader's mind in feverish tension and anxiety throughout the work, but he possessed chaste precision and rigor of style, the ability to successfully combine the gothic with the simple human, as well as the unity of passion, causing us such feelings like fear and compassion. Dorian Gray's wish was fulfilled. As the years passed, he remained a handsome young man. At the same time, the hero was able to appreciate only external beauty. It killed his love for Sybil Vane. The hero's selfishness caused Sybil's death. This tragedy was just the beginning of Dorian Gray's vicious path. After that, he killed more than one person. With each of his actions, the portrait changed. Soon the young man depicted on it turned into an ugly old man. Dorian Gray understood that the portrait was a reflection of his soul, so he hid it from everyone. Wilde's philosophy, about his attempt to prove that art is stronger than life. The portrait was a reflection of Dorian's soul. He killed himself with his mediocre life. A portrait is a symbol of art, and it cannot be indifferent to life. Serving only ourselves, our own whims, we kill a person in ourselves, and the novel serves as another warning against bitter mistakes. Oscar Wilde's brilliant novel told about a young man named Dorian Gray, to whom a mysterious portrait helped to preserve eternal youth. The plot of the book revolves around Dorian's moral downfall, convinced that all his actions will not have consequences due to the magical properties of the portrait. While reading Wilde's novel, we highly dive into it. The fact is that The Portrait of Dorian Gray contains the main idea of the entire work of the Irish writer. Wilde

argued that the ethical side of literature is overrated the book should not teach the reader how to do the right thing and what not to do.

According to the author, the aesthetic function is much more important how well the book is written. And unfortunately, the creators of the film adaptation failed to fulfill this installation. The writer's work seems to be trying to tell the same story, but something completely different comes out. Seemingly insignificant details are changing: for example, Gray's portrait is not just aging, but crawling with worms and rats. Lord Henry does not infect the main character with skepticism or open for him the literature of decadents. The main idea of the novel is human vices and an ugly soul cannot be hidden under a beautiful appearance. We need to fight with the very essence of our vices, we must not allow selfishness to take over the soul, that's what O. Wilde's novel teaches.

Discussion . In this part of my work I want to highlight the vicious life of the main hero who struggles with passion, however obeying, his ambitions, hence bringing himself to tragedy. Dorian Gray is the main character of Oscar Wilde's novel *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*. Dorian is a young aristocrat, a young handsome man, who, like Faust, entered into a deal with the devil in order to preserve freshness, youth and beauty, while age, vicious life and crimes put their imprint on the portrait made by Dorian's friend, the artist Basil Hallward. Dorian Gray was surprisingly handsome. But external and internal beauty are different things. Unfortunately, Dorian was only handsome in appearance. Or maybe he was too weak spiritually, did not have his own point of view on life and easily accepted the motto of Lord Henry's life is beauty and pleasure, that is, complete selfishness. Dorian loves only himself and his beauty. But everyone who encounters him dies. Sybil Vane, who loved Dorian wholeheartedly, committed suicide. All those who did not want to see a deity in the beauty of Dorian Gray and sought to judge his actions from the standpoint of public morality died. But Gray flouted moral laws. People thought that such a handsome man could not be vicious. Even fate gave him a magnificent gift. An amazing magic happened. Dorian Gray's wish was fulfilled, and his beauty did not fade with the years. And only the portrait depicted everything that happened to Dorian's soul. Dorian's world has no consequences. Everything he does is attributed to the painting, everything. Any regret or malice leaves him quickly and is transferred to the canvas. So he can't technically feel emotion for an extended period of time; thus, his attitude becomes one of nonchalance. He becomes a shell, an emotionless creature who can only seek his sin: vanity. He surrounds himself with beauty. His house is full of art, brilliant music and every luxury known to man. You name it. Dorian's got it. Only through