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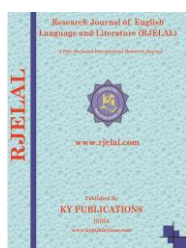
TRUST ISSUES IN FRANKENSTEIN

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ABSTRACT

Frankenstein is a novel by Mary Shelley. It is a science fiction written by Mary Shelley. Mary Shelley wrote this fiction when she was eighteen years old. She framed this novel as a result of Lord Byron's challenge when she was having a good time with her friends. As it was romantic era, most of the writers were concerned with nature. Due to the volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora, that year was known as year without summer. In Frankenstein she explores the issues of trust, ranging from man to technology. She explores the trust issues ranging from man to modern studies, the effect of modern studies on man, trust factor of man on his own scientific creation and trust of creation towards his creator.

Key words : Trust, creation ,creator, technology, monster.

Introduction

Trust is an important factor in our life. Our family system, society, life of individuals and many factors are associated with trust. Until and unless we trust each other we cannot stay in peace. Human beings have to trust each other to live peacefully. Trust does not only mean a person trusting other person. In some cases the trust factor is between the man and his pet. For example, if we consider a man worshipping, it is nothing but his trust on the spiritual entity or some unknown force. Such a trust factor between man and his creation, none other than semi-human monster is shown in the novel "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley.

During the summer of 1816, eighteen year old Mary Wollenstonecraft Godwin was having a good time with her future husband Percy Bysshe Shelley, famous English poet Lord Byron and Byron's doctor John Polidori. The English experienced a bad weather in 1816 because of eruption of Indonesian volcano mountain; mount Tambora which disrupted

weather patterns. Due to which that year was known as year without summer.

Lord Byron challenged everyone to come up with the scariest stories ever. Polidori came up with "The Vampyre"; one of the first vampire romances in English. Byron wrote a few fragments and Mary Shelley wrote one of the most famous horror stories "Frankenstein" or "The Modern Prometheus." She claims that she had a vision and based on that she wrote "Frankenstein."

Mary Shelley was the daughter of two famous personalities in literature: Mary Wollenstonecraft who wrote first work of English feminism and few works regarding political philosophy about human rights and William Godwin was an atheist, anarchist and a radical who wrote novels and essays attacking conservatism.

Mary Shelley's aim is not to write only a gothic novel but to question the world relating science and technology.

The Element of Trust in character of Frankenstein

Victor Frankenstein is a great scientist with short-sightedness. He is a knowledgeable person who misuses his knowledge to a great extent with his ignorance.

The creation of monster did not happen overnight. It took him months and months of studying and experimental thinking. Even when Frankenstein was away from college, he kept thinking about his experiment. His family members and professors warned to give up his experiment. But, Frankenstein did not understand the concerns of his family members and professors. He has no trust in his family members. Apart from his scientific research and passion, he never believed that there are other joys of life to be enjoyable. Frankenstein's great mistake was that he had no trust in his own creation.

The decision made by Victor is un-reliable. Even his point-of-view was in terms of self interest. He started becoming un-reliable the very moment he started his experiment.

Another mistake of Frankenstein was that he did not trust his fellow scientists and professors enough to share his views and his strategy of experiment with them. He did not trust them enough to guide him at time of crisis. If he would have trusted his colleagues and scholars, they would have helped him at the time of crisis.

The society also did not trust Frankenstein. The government or educational institution did not provide proper funds for his experiment. So, he had to depend on substandard materials for his experiment. As a result of this, he had to dig up the graves of corpses. Unable to find a single body in its proper condition, even in state of decay; he had to use different parts from different corpses. This is the reason that he was unable to form a creature with perfect body structure. Due to this, the creature emanated strong order of decay from him. Due to this reason, no one accepted him. Even the Frankenstein being his own creator dumped him. So, in this way Frankenstein dumped the trust of his own creation.

The Element of Trust in Character of Monster

The monster is an experimental blunder created by Victor Frankenstein. Frankenstein wants to create something beautiful. But, he ends up in creating something terrible. But, he ends up in creating something terrifying. Even though the creature was terrifying in his physical form, he always craved for love.

Now the question is how is he a monster? How the ideas of creating something beautiful turn into something terrible?

The monster was created terrible due to scientific hunger and passion of a scientist. The monster was created terrible due to opposing factor of society which failed to recognize the scientist's knowledge and his passion for his experiment.

In general, we hear about monsters in myths, ballads and fairy tales. A monster is a horrible super natural being that is extreme and unusual, that cannot be controlled and causes problems.

But in novel, the monster is created by a human being. When he creates a monster, he is not at all concerned about monster's feelings. He was only lamenting for his own failure without being least concerned about new born creature. Monster was treated only as an experiment and as its failure. This broke the trust of monster.

The monster had no mechanical characters though he is result of an experiment. He has all human characteristics like love, hatred and revenge etc.

The monster was expelled from the society. The monster was not accepted due to prejudice of the society. According to Rousseau "The imperfections of human nature are not from nature, but from society." Human beings must free themselves from social oppression and prejudice. The monster is expelled from society because of the prejudice of the society. The monster came to the society like a baby who is unaffected due to prejudices of society. Like a new born baby, he was also unaffected by the prejudices of society when he was born. Like a new born who craves for love, the monster also craves for love. But, he doesn't receive that from society in return. Thus, his trust on society is broken at this point.

The monster does injustice to innocent people. He develops this attitude because his innocence was also suffered to injustice. So, his trust in society broke into pieces. This attitude of revenge starts from this point in the novel. He was unable to bear the rejection of society and of his own creator. Generally a new born child blindly follows and trusts his/her parents. But, if the trust is broken the child will not experience any love towards parents and starts hating society also followed by this. The same went with the monster. The monster was also rejected by his creator. Thus, his trust in love was shattered into pieces and started developing hatredness towards everyone who rejected him. When anyone loses love, the only feeling left within them is hatredness, dejection and sadness. Same happened with the monster. When Victor Frankenstein refused to create She monster, he lost all hopes of love and started causing disaster.

Trust Complications between Victor Frankenstein and his Creation

There are different complications since we have to consider the point of views of both monster and Frankenstein in this novel. Frankenstein finally realizes that his science experiment went too far and cannot accept the monster as he is and abandons it. This is the point where he loses trust in his own knowledge. The monster keeps killing all his loved ones, and Frankenstein must get rid of this monster. This shows that the knowledge for which Frankenstein has abandoned his own family is not so trust worthy. In this case Mary SHELLEY indirectly refers to the people of her contemporary era that turning completely towards science is always not safe. Science also has its own disadvantages.

Frankenstein's trust in his creation seems to be shaken off when he goes back home to find more about his younger brother's death and sees his creation crossing mountains. They cross paths. At this moment he realizes that how his own education and knowledge betrayed him and how his knowledge caused the destruction of his entire family.

Instead of loving and trusting each other, they both hated each other. Frankenstein wanted to create something beautiful like god. But as soon as he creates his own creation disgusts him. He does

not trust his own creation. This abominable feeling when he sees his own creation arouses a feeling of hatredness in him instead of love and trust towards his own creation. He not only hates his creation but he hates himself also. He not only loses trust in his own creation, but he loses trust in himself also.

Frankenstein's creation had complete trust on Frankenstein. That is the reason even when others reject him he asks Frankenstein to create a companion with whom he can share his worries and happiness. In this case we can see how creation has trusted his creator in complete sense. But, when his own creator is against him, he starts destroying everything. The reason is his trust breaks at that point of time.

But there are some other issues where the trust of monster and victor are similar. Both Frankenstein and monster trust nature and look it at for serenity and peace when they are distressed.

One more important trait between Frankenstein and monster is their love, adornment and trust in knowledge. Both look on knowledge as something dangerous as well as blissful. Frankenstein trusting his knowledge leaves his family, his love in search of knowledge. Even monster realises that instead of trusting his creator, he has to trust his knowledge. He has to work towards the development of knowledge. Thus trust is an important issue.

Conclusion

Victor Frankenstein has created the monster. He is like a father figure to the monster. A father figure should always guide the children in a right path. In this way, the father figure will be able to build trust, love and affection in the mind of the children. But if the father figure doesn't give same love and affection to the warden, then the warden will lose trust on him. This is the case with Victor Frankenstein and his creation. Victor Frankenstein did not care for his creation. All the time he lamented on his creation and he did not care about the creature that he created. Thus, he broke the trust of his creature in the initial step.

As the creature got love neither from society nor from his creation, he started harboring negative feelings for the society and his creator. So, his zeal of killing his creator's family starts from

here. When his creator refuses to create she-monster for him, he finally loses all hopes of love and kills the creator. The monster would have become trustworthy, if he would have been accepted by the society and his creator.

The total chaos begins with the experiment of Victor Frankenstein. He had too much of trust on technology, that he did not think of adverse consequences. So, in this way sometimes the element of over trust and lack of trust affected the characters in the novel.

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