

## THE APPLICATION OF THE PSYCHOANALYTIC METHOD IN THE NOVEL THE ISLAND OF DR MOREAU BY G. WALES

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**Abstract:** This research paper is devoted to one of the many possible interpretations of the text with the application of psychoanalytical hermeneutics on the example of the novel 'The Island of Dr Moreau' by H.G. Wells. The aim of the study is to discover the true meaning of the text and to apply the modified ideas of Freud and philosophical hermeneutics to the novel in a practical way. This paper uses the methods of literary, hermeneutic, comparative and psychoanalytical analyses. The results of the study can be used for methodological purposes in educational institutions and for individual familiarisation.

**Keywords:** psychoanalytic hermeneutics, novel, text interpretation, authentic meaning.

In 1896, HG Wells published his novel The Island of Dr Moreau. It is the story of an unfortunate shipwrecked man who finds himself on an island with a mad scientist and the beastmen he created. Wells wrote many literary works between 1895 and 1941 and is considered one of the fathers of science fiction.

In 1920, the Austrian psychologist, psychiatrist and neurologist, Sigmund Freud, published his work 'The Ego and the Ono', in which he described the scheme of psychoanalysis. By identifying the different levels of the subconscious mind and their interactions, Freud became widely known as the father of psychoanalysis.

It is known that Sigmund Freud and Herbert Wells were well acquainted with each other, for a long time they corresponded, several times Wells visited Freud personally. At the time, they shared social and political views and were proponents of ideas that were quite unpopular with the majority. In 1938, Wells petitioned the British government to allow Freud to immigrate to England, but the petition was rejected.

It is unlikely that Freud's scientific views were in any way influenced by the literary works of H.G. Wells, but this does not prevent us from looking at The Island of Dr Moreau through the prism of Freud's theories.

Freud was the first to put forward the idea of a multi-level consciousness. Freud's model of consciousness, resembles the structure of an iceberg. Consciousness

is like the top part of the iceberg, the part that's visible to the naked eye. The subconscious mind, on the other hand, is like the invisible part of the iceberg, the part that is underwater. While only a small part of the iceberg can be seen above water, underwater is the main part of the iceberg. From a Freudian perspective, the subconscious is similarly limitless. The consciousness is made up of three components: The Super Ego, the Ego, and the It. And these three parts fight each other for supremacy, each trying to assert its right to supremacy.

There are three main characters in the novel The Island of Dr Moreau, they are Dr Moreau, Montgomery and Edward Prendica. In addition to these characters, a multitude of beast-like people inhabit the island. Each, of the main characters in the novel, like the beastmen, can be viewed

through the lens of Freud's structural psychoanalysis. The island itself acts as a symbol of the very iceberg that Freud used to illustrate the unconscious. Only a small part of the island remains visible, the tree crowns, mountain tops and shoreline, while the underlying volcanic structures and geological materials remain invisible.

The island in Wells' novel symbolises the mind. Edward Prendick is an unwitting observer of the inner workings of this mind. He acts as a psychoanalyst, trying to grasp the meaning of the strange 'madness' that is going on in his head.

According to Freud's theory, dreams express the deep workings of the subconscious, which means that the nature of subconscious thinking can be understood through dream interpretation.

Wells' novel is so fantastic that it is almost like a dream, perhaps not the most pleasant. After his rescue, Prendick doesn't share the details of his journey with others: "No doubt when they picked me up they thought I was crazy..... Neither the captain nor his mate believed my story, thinking I had gone mad from loneliness and fear of death. Fearing that the others might not think the same, I refrained from further accounts, declaring that I remembered absolutely nothing that had happened to me from the day of the loss of the Lady Vane until I was picked up by the brig, that is, for a whole year"

Edward Prendick, who acts as an observer and interpreter of dreams on the island, tries to understand the meaning of the subconscious; he is akin to a psychoanalyst who has taken the easiest path. After all, due to the large amount of information that dream interpretation presented, it was considered the primary and easiest path to understanding the subconscious mind. However, understanding a dream is a complex process that requires a lot of time. Prendick's adventures on the island are fraught with difficulties. He witnesses the struggle between the Ono, the Ego and the Super Ego for dominance over the mind.

The island is run by two individuals with very different personalities. Dr Moreau is a scientist obsessed only with scientific research. Through vivisection, he attempts to turn animals into humans. Montgomery is also a scientist, but he does not have the desire or drive for perfection that is so inherent in Moreau. He assists the Doctor in his studies and provides a link between Dr Moreau and the creatures he creates. The creatures themselves, the beastmen that Moreau has created through torture and painful operations, also play an important role in the interpretation.

In Freud's structure of psychoanalysis, the beastmen represent the Ono. The Ono is our most primitive desires, instincts, drives, and desire for satisfaction. The Ono is our inner beast, our primordality, no control and no thought. Everything that is Ono is personified by the beastmen. They fight their bestial instincts to hunt and lurk. They abide by the laws set by Moro, only to escape punishment. "Some like to chase a runner, to stalk and sneak, to wait and pounce, to kill and bite, to bite hard, sucking blood.... That's bad' ...

The ego is the mediator between the subconscious needs, the desires of the Ono, and the Super Ego's desire for control. The Ego is a major part of the conscious, struggling to satisfy the desires of the Ono and Super Ego in the most socially acceptable way. This incessant struggle is a source of anxiety for the Ego, which it tries to alleviate through the use of defence mechanisms.

Freud believed that defence mechanisms are psychological survival strategies and are part of the normal, healthy psyche. However, when defence mechanisms are the primary means of coping with any situation, they become pathological, or unhealthy.

Montgomery, as befits an Ego, is the liaison between the Beastmen and the Super Ego. He takes a keen interest in them, 'Montgomery knows their lives, as he plays the role of mediator. He has trained several of them to serve us. It seems to me, though he is ashamed to admit it, that he pities them."

As Ego, Montgomery has found his place on the island, but the struggle between his personal moral code and the situation creates unease. His inability to settle this difficulty leads him to abuse alcohol as a defence mechanism to combat his surroundings. His condition is exacerbated by the appearance of Edward Prendick, an outside observer, as during the events taking place on the island, Montgomery's shortcomings are magnified by Prendick's actions. His increased alcohol abuse leads him to make bad decisions, the worst of which is to give the beastmen alcohol. The inebriated beastmen forget about inhibitions and obeying laws, in the end, during an altercation, Montgomery is mortally wounded, 'Montgomery was lying on his back, and a scythe-like beast was piled on top of him. It was dead, but still clutched Montgomery's throat with its crooked claws. Beside him, down, perfectly still, lay Mling. His neck was bitten through, and in his hand was clutched the neck of a broken brandy bottle.'

If the Ego is unable to maintain a balance between the Ego and the Super Ego, the Ego will eventually gain control over the Ego and the Super Ego. According to Freud's psychoanalytic theory, it is the Ego, not the Super Ego, that is most likely to be the victim of the Ono, because the desire for pleasure and the absence of guilt, is more attractive than guilt and the denial of pleasure. Human consciousness is in a constant state of war with their 'base', animal instincts, and there is always the danger of losing this war.

Perhaps it is a good thing that no human being can fully access the inner workings of another's consciousness. Freud rarely discussed the danger of applying depth psychoanalysis to the psychoanalyst. An hour of therapy sitting on a couch next to a disturbed patient poses no real threat to the mental health of a trained professional. Total immersion in the mind of another, as in the bizarre microcosm in which Prendick was imprisoned, would leave a terrible, indelible imprint on a person's psyche. Edward Prendick's observation on the island changed his perception of reality and made him insecure about the world around him: 'I do not expect that the terrible pictures seen on the island will ever completely disappear from my memory, but they are now in the depths of my consciousness, they are as distant as clouds and seem unreal; but sometimes these clouds grow and cover the whole sky. And then I look round at the people around me, trembling with fear. Some faces seem to me calm and clear, others gloomy and threatening, others fickle and insincere; in none of the human faces is there that intelligent certainty which distinguishes a human being. It seems to me that there is a beast lurking beneath the outer shell, and before me the horror I saw on the island will soon be played out again, only on an even greater scale.'

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