

THE DEPICTION OF FEELINGS IN “FAHRENHEIT 451” BY RAY BRUDBURY

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Abstract: This article is devoted to the analyses of depictions on feelings of main heroes in “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury and impressions of the protagonist in the work “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury. In this work it is tried to analyze the main hero, Guy Montag’s feelings toward his wife, Mildred, because it is essential in the novel to recognize his real life and emotions towards his spouse as this identification helps to discover his attitude and acts in the society. In this way the realization of Montag’s own unhappiness in his life is compared to his real position in social life. At the beginning of this article opinions of a number of linguists are given who make review on this novel. Moreover, some passage is taken and analyzed in order to look into the feelings of the major character’s sense to his wife to analogize it to impressions about the community he is living on.

Key words: Emotion, feeling, image, literature, hero, social problems, impression, personal development, portrayal.

Ray Bradbury’s internationally acclaimed novel Fahrenheit 451 stands as a classic of world literature and was written in 1953. Since then the novel has been in the center of the attention of many researches and writers. The feeling of the characters in the narrative have also one of the themes which are most analyzed from this book. For example, a researcher Fernanda Luisa Feneja tried to show the Promethean Rebellion in Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451. She analysed the main hero, Guy Montag, and his feelings in his personal development while he understood the reality about his own life [1, 2].

Another scholar Syakir Mohammad analyzed social problems in society like censorship which banned the books and avoid from the society to read. According to S.Mohammad (2023)[3,1] the portrayal of censorship and effects in the novel that was presented through the main character’s thoughts and the journey into events of the novel. Reviewing their works, we can see that Ray Bradbury tried to show the problems in the society of that period with the feelings and thoughts of his main hero, Guy Montag.

In one interview with National Endowment for the Arts, one of the most celebrated 20th-century American writers, Ray Douglas Bradbury gave such a speech about why he had decided to write his famous novel “Fahrenheit 451”:

Well, Hitler, of course. When I was 15, he burned the books in the streets of Berlin. Then along the way I learned about the libraries in Alexandria burning 5000 years ago. ... That grieved my soul. Since I'm self-educated, that means my educators—the libraries—are in danger. And if it could happen in Alexandria, if it could happen in Berlin, maybe it could happen somewhere up ahead, and my heroes would be killed.”[2]

Fahrenheit 451 presents an American society where books have been personified and outlawed and "firemen" burn any that are found. It tells us the story about how his main character Guy Montag transformed from a book-burning fireman into a book-reading rebel. And the emotions he felt during

the narrative helps us to understand the process of his mental changing towards oppressive society of his period. His coming to realize about unconscious unhappiness of the citizens who are constantly bombarded with advertisements and superficial entertainments to his own one with his wife Mildred.

At the very beginning of the novel he meets a seventeen year old girl named after Clarisse McClellan while walking to his work. So they get acquainted and talked about Montag's profession and life. The girl was very open-minded and free spirited that she dares to ask the question – "Are you happy?" from Guy when they are parting. Without thinking Montag tells that he is certainly satisfied with his life. However, after this conversation a real situation about his position dawns on him: "*He was unhappy man and were not conscious about his ambitious in life.*" [2] This recognition continues and connected with scene Montag finds his wife Mildred as unconscious in bed from overdosing on sleeping pills she was addicted to. After experiencing Mildred's near-death situation Montag realizes that his wife has not a place and importance in his life. When the bloodstream is vaccinated in Mildred's vessel Montag thinks as given the Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (1953), "Someone else's blood there. If only someone else's flesh and brain and memory. If only they could have taken along to the dry-cleaner's and emptied the pockets and steamed and cleansed it and relocked it and brought back it in the morning. If only..." [2,14]

It shows that Montag is seemed as unsatisfied with Mildred's behavior and thoughts, life style overall with her personality. The time of these events in Montag's life is important point in the procedure of the events in the novel because from then it is seemed as if the world has changed for him. Montag realizes that Mildred was not essential for him even when she was awake. We can see another dissatisfaction of his in the sentence Guy tells to Clarisse when he meets her next morning after finding out that Clarisse is only seventeen years old: "*My five is thirty and you seem so much older at times*" [2,2] These passages show that Montag begins analyzing his individual life and his feelings, wants. Then Montag becomes to being aware about society and deep social problems after the episode of witnessing a woman choosing suicide herself by burning instead of watching her books are put on fire. He steals a book from the woman's home against the law of banning to read the books that have to be burnt. The old woman says such words to the book-burning firemen when they come to ignite the books:

"Play the men, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be pull out" [2,33]

As writer tells by Captain Beatty's words a man named after Latimer said that to Nicolas Ridley when they were being burnt alive at Oxford for their ideas as heresy. They were rebellious men and wanted the people to be aware of the reality, science by realizing deep rooted problems in the society connected with religion. The women's words and this fact make Montag to read the book intentionally as soon as he comes home. While begin reading the book he feels like the life around him he has been living is unfamiliar for, including his wife. Montag experiences very strange feeling towards her, she seems as a stranger, as he doesn't recognize her. This sense is related to the community around him too. Montag didn't have any intention when he wanted to become a fireman. He has just followed his grandfather's and father's job. And now he feels as he cannot face doing this work. As the plot goes on the conflict between Guy and his wife rises worse and worse. Montag understands his own unhappiness with his in his life and in the society. Mildred is described as light-minded, pleasure seeking woman and she cannot understand his husband's emotions about the books. She considered Montag as a fool and decided to desert him. In my opinion this scene is related to Montag's attempt trying to get rid of the oppressive society aimed to keep his citizens unconscious about the reality of the world by ensuring uncomplicated happiness for them. The novel's climax comes when Montag burns Captain Beatty when the captain orders to burn Montag's house and books. Finally, Montag abandon the society by escaping the city. Now he feels confident and relaxed because he has no more relations with his hollow happiness with a wife and a community. He

escapes to the country and here he meets a group of intellectual people who dedicate themselves to preserving great books by remembering them. The novel ended with this passage: "And on either side of the river was there a tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; And the leaves of the tree were for the heading of the nation". [2,158] Montag hopes that instead of previous society the new one will come where knowledge serve as the foundation of the community and life.

Summing up, Fahrenheit 451 is one of the most influential books of Ray Bradbury. It has been hot theme of discussion among writes and linguists for many years. Researchers like Fernanda Luisa Feneja and Sakir Mohammad tried to analyze feelings of the main hero connected with the society. In this work I attempted to look through Montag's emotions for his wife, Mildred, and seemed some relations between his feelings toward the community and his spouse. I tried to prove my idea by pasting some sentences from the novel.

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