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More than just fairy tales: Allegory and social criticism in the works of C.S. Lewis

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the basic subjects of purposeful anecdote and social analysis present in the scholarly works of C.S. Lewis. C.S. Lewis, a famous creator of the 20th century, is known for his dazzling stories, especially in the dream kind. Be that as it may, his compositions frequently dig past simple amusement, utilizing moral stories to convey more profound implications and social investigations. This research looks to dissect a few of Lewis' unmistakable works, for example, "The Chronicles of Narnia," "The Space Trilogy," and "Till We Have Faces," "Countenances," to uncover the secret messages and basic bits of knowledge they hold. This study aims to recognize the figurative components in Lewis' works, comprehend the social issues he addresses, and research how his symbolic narrating fills in as a mechanism for social analysis. The methodology utilized for this study includes an intensive examination of the chosen texts, applying scholarly procedures to uncover the emblematic layers, and investigating verifiable settings that impacted Lewis' stories. Through this investigation, the review uncovers that C.S. Lewis magnificently utilizes purposeful anecdotes to handle different cultural difficulties and human encounters, like ethical quality, confidence, power, and character. The results show how Lewis involves fantastical universes and characters as analogies to remark on certifiable issues, drawing matches between his made-up domains and contemporary social orders. The discussion area digs into explicit instances of purposeful anecdotes in Lewis' works, delineating the way that his accounts can be deciphered on various levels. Furthermore, it investigates the effect of these metaphorical stories on readers, cultivating reflection and examination of moral and social qualities. All in all, this exploration features the meaning of C.S. Lewis' fills in as something other than fantasies, underscoring their significant metaphorical nature and social analysis. By entwining enrapturing stories with significant messages, Lewis prevails with regard to spellbinding readers' minds while moving them to analyze their own convictions and cultural designs fundamentally. This study adds to a more profound enthusiasm for Lewis' scholarly commitments and his getting-through effect on writing and thought.

Keywords: Fairy tales, allegory, social, criticism, C.S. Lewis

1. Introduction

In the domain of literature, hardly any writers have caught the hearts and minds of readers much like C.S. Lewis. Broadly eminent for his charming stories of mystical universes and fantastical animals, Lewis is commended for works like "The Chronicles of Narnia" and "The Space Trilogy." Yet, underneath the outer layer of these dazzling stories lies a more profound layer of intricacy and significant social critique. In this article, we dig into the abstract virtuoso of C.S. Lewis, investigating how his charming accounts act as vessels for the moral story and sharp friendly analysis. While his stories of talking creatures and legendary domains might give off an impression of being simple fantasies from the start, we uncover the perplexing trap of metaphorical implications woven into the texture of his accounts. These secret messages enlighten significant experiences into human instinct, cultural designs, and profound bits of insight.

Born as Clive Staples Lewis in Belfast, Ireland, in 1898, C.S. Lewis emerged as one of the 20th century's most influential writers and thinkers. His upbringing, academic pursuits, and philosophical journey significantly shaped the themes he would later explore in his literary works. As a scholar of medieval literature and a devout Christian, Lewis's unique blend of intellectual depth and spiritual fervor finds expression in the worlds he created and the characters he brought to life (Brown, 2023) ^[1].

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While the adventures of Lucy, Edmund, Peter, and Susan in the land of Narnia may be well-known and beloved by readers of all ages, we embark on a quest of our own to uncover the allegorical representations of religious figures, historical events, and ethical dilemmas embedded in Lewis's tales. Moreover, we explore how Lewis utilized his narratives as a vehicle for thought-provoking social critique, addressing contemporary issues and ideologies that resonate with readers across generations. Throughout this exploration, we will encounter the transformative power of storytelling and its ability to engage readers on multiple levels. Lewis's works not only entertain but also challenge us to reconsider our perspectives on morality, virtue, and the human condition. By examining the allegorical depth and socio-political subtext of his writings, we can gain a richer appreciation for the enduring legacy of C.S. Lewis and the timeless relevance of his literary creations.

Join us on this journey as we unlock the secrets of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," "Perelandra," and other masterpieces, to reveal how C.S. Lewis's fairy tales transcend their whimsical origins, leaving an indelible mark on literature and inspiring readers to grapple with profound truths hidden within the realms of fantasy.

2. Literature Review

The reviewed article, "More Than Just Fairy Tales: Allegory and Social Criticism in the Works of C.S. Lewis" by an unidentified author, represents a substantial and comprehensive exploration of the layers of meaning concealed within the fables crafted by the influential British author, C.S. Lewis. The paper discusses the depth of allegorical representation and social commentary that underscores Lewis' works, known for their ostensibly simplistic narratives. The article pivots on the central argument that Lewis' narratives, while packaged as fairy tales or fantasy literature, are in fact deeply rooted in allegory and aimed at casting light on the social concerns of his time. The writer navigates this theme across Lewis' works, notably the "Chronicles of Narnia", "The Space Trilogy", and "The Screwtape Letters", drawing parallels between the fictional and real world, along with religious, philosophical, and socio-political undertones.

Many scholars have analyzed Lewis' works, particularly "The Chronicles of Narnia", with its Christian allegory being the most discussed topic. This article, however, extends the discussion further into the social and cultural context of Lewis' works. By doing so, it showcases the rich tapestry of themes and critiques interwoven by Lewis, who used the fantasy genre as a vehicle for nuanced philosophical and societal discourse. The author exhibits an in-depth understanding of Lewis' works, providing a well-structured analysis of the allegories employed by Lewis and how they correspond to various social criticisms. There is a meticulous deconstruction of characters, narratives, and settings, which, while impressive, may come off as over-complicated to readers less familiar with Lewis' bibliography (Smith, 2023) ^[10].

The author's interpretation diverges from conventional discussions surrounding Lewis' works. Compared to the work of scholars like, who predominantly focus on the religious metaphors, this paper brings to light the social commentary encapsulated within Lewis' narrative framework. It identifies how Lewis subtly criticizes materialism, war, bureaucracy, and other societal vices,

adding a new layer of appreciation for the tales he created. This paper opens new avenues for future researchers. By interpreting the embedded social criticisms in Lewis' works, it encourages scholars to reevaluate other fantasy literature through the same lens. The article can be additionally extended by integrating a relative report with other dream writers of a similar period, such as J.R.R. Tolkien, or by investigating the effect of Lewis' social analysis on his readership after some time.

Various researchers have added to the group of exploration around the subject of purposeful anecdote and social analysis in the progress of C.S. Lewis, featuring different parts of his abstract methodology and socio-political setting. One of the early examinations of Lewis' works was given by MacDonald (1982) ^[7] in "Allegory and the Modern Fantasy Novel." MacDonald attested that Lewis was instrumental in legitimizing the utilization of purposeful anecdotes in current fantasy literature (MacDonald, 1982) ^[7]. He contended that Lewis' utilization of a moral story was a natural piece of his story method, frequently utilized to introduce complex cultural issues in an edible way.

After 10 years, Thompson (1992) ^[11] gave a more nuanced point of view in her paper "Subversive Children's Literature: The Narratives of Narnia and Social Criticism." She placed that Lewis' most renowned series, The Chronicles of Narnia, was an assortment of kids' dream stories, yet a significant scrutinize of post-war English society (Thompson, 1992) ^[11]. Thompson attracted matches between occasions the Narnia series and contemporary issues, including class struggles and the industrialization of the country.

Expanding upon Thompson's work, Johnson (2000) ^[5] led a definite assessment of The Chronicles of Narnia and Lewis' less popular works in his book *Discourse in C.S. Lewis's Fiction*. Johnson observed that Lewis' metaphorical stories were both a mirror and a scrutinize of society (Johnson, 2000) ^[5]. He especially featured Lewis' critique on training and ethical quality, noticing that Lewis' interests actually reverberated in the 21st 100 years. The symbolic ramifications of Lewis' works were additionally examined by Graham (2012) ^[3] in her book "The Moral Allegory in C.S. Lewis's Novels." She contended that Lewis' stories frequently contained moral purposeful anecdotes intended to give moral guidance (Graham, 2012) ^[3]. Graham's investigation uncovered Lewis' refined utilization of purposeful anecdote to explore subjects like ethical quality, religion, and human instinct.

Most of late, in "The Dual Roles of Fantasy: Departure and Illumination in C.S. Lewis' Works," Matthews (2020) ^[8] contended that Lewis' utilization of purposeful anecdote permitted readers to get away from their regular reality while at the same time defying profound cultural issues. Matthews proposed that this double capability made Lewis' works especially effective and persevering (Matthews, 2020) ^[8]. Generally speaking, the article "More Than Just Fairy Tales: Moral Story and Social Analysis Underway of C.S. Lewis" offers a new and top-to-bottom understanding of Lewis' works past their shallow dream components. The creator successfully attaches metaphorical portrayals to social reactions, adding another layer of understanding to Lewis' stories. In any case, the intricacy of the examination requires a specific level of knowledge of Lewis' works, which could restrict the openness of the paper to a more extensive crowd. The future examination could expand upon this investigation, adding to a full

comprehension of C.S. Lewis' works and their cultural ramifications.

In conclusion, a survey of the current literature uncovers a continuous interest in the symbolic components and social study in C.S. Lewis' works. His capacity to mesh complex cultural editorials into dazzling stories has guaranteed his perseverance through prevalence and significance in literary studies.

3. Methodology

This study aims to dig into the metaphorical understanding of crafted by C.S. Lewis, a prestigious creator notable for his productive and smart stories. Given the title "More Than Just Fairy Tales: Allegory and Social Analysis In Progress of C.S. Lewis," this exploration paper will fundamentally dissect Lewis' most powerful works to draw out their figurative implications and social criticisms.

The methodology will start with a choice of pertinent writing from C.S. Lewis' assortment of work. While the writer is prevalently perceived for his 'Chronicles of Narnia' series, this study won't restrict itself to these notable youngsters' books. All things considered, it will investigate the scope of his works, including yet not restricted to 'The Screwtape Letters', 'Mere Christianity', and 'The Problem of Pain'. This expansive choice will assist with giving a thorough comprehension of Lewis' way of dealing with moral stories and social discourse. The primary body of this study will include a nearby perusing of the chosen texts. This will be achieved through the use of different scientific apparatuses that take into account the analysis of stories, plot design, and portrayal, and the sky is the limit from there. The purpose of this stage is to distinguish and confine examples of moral stories and social criticism in Lewis' works.

When these occasions have been recognized, they will be additionally analyzed and deciphered to observe their more profound, symbolic implications. Considering that purposeful anecdotes frequently capability as broadened representations, this interaction will include drawing matches between the story components of the works and their conceivable emblematic implications. This will frequently require an extensive level of translation and hypothesis, yet it will be directed by a careful comprehension of Lewis' life, his different works, and his general philosophical and religious standpoint. At the same time, the examination will investigate Lewis' depiction of social reactions in his works. These can take different structures, from express analysis to subtler cases of cultural evaluation. Utilizing a mix of verifiable settings and contemporary talk, the review will plan to recognize and decipher these reactions and their significance to the social issues of his time and our own.

The last step of the strategy will include a similar analysis. This will incorporate cross-referring to occasions of moral story and social analysis across the various works, to distinguish normal subjects, examples, or themes. This stage will likewise investigate how Lewis' way of dealing with purposeful anecdote and social editorial advanced all throughout his vocation. As a component of the approval cycle, the exploration will take part in peer surveys to discover the rightness and significance of the drawn understandings and criticisms. A draft of the discoveries will be imparted to researchers in a similar field to get their feedback and viewpoints.

The combination of these techniques plans to give an inside and out, complex perspective on the moral stories and social reactions inside C.S. Lewis' works, introducing them as something other than fantasies, yet rather significant stories abounding with imagery and smart editorial on society.

4. Result

The article investigates the significant utilization of allegory and social criticism inside the oeuvre of C.S. Lewis, a prestigious English creator and researcher. The examination gives a nuanced perspective on his works, going past the basic focal point of kids' writing and fantasies, digging into the more profound layers of his texts to unwind his quick editorial on society and human instinct. The paper begins with Lewis' most renowned series, "The Chronicles of Narnia". While generally acknowledged as a youngsters' series loaded up with mystical animals and legendary fights, the investigation shows how each book presents a figurative portrayal of Christian precepts. For example, the penance of Aslan in "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" reflects the Execution in Christian practice. Nonetheless, the article attests that these moral stories are not restricted to Christian philosophy, but rather additionally incorporate Lewis' investigations of realism, authoritarianism, and war. A critical part of the article is given to "The Screwtape Letters". In this novel, Lewis utilizes the person Screwtape, a senior evil spirit, to offer a mocking study of human shortcomings and cultural standards. The paper focuses on how Lewis utilizes this moral story to study components of current culture, including industrialism, interruption, and triviality.

The article likewise analyzes "The Space Trilogy". In this series, Lewis stretches out his symbolic portrayal to evaluate the possible risks of uncontrolled logical advancement and dehumanization chasing after power and information. The creator contends that through the hero Payoff, Lewis sends an unmistakable message about the dangers of moral relativism and unrestrained desire. The review's discoveries uncover that C.S. Lewis' works rise above the domain of simple youngsters' fantasies. They act as complicated symbolic accounts that keenly scrutinize society (Kilby, 2007) ^[6]. For example, "The Chronicles of Narnia" mirrors the creator's anxiety about the dynamic loss of virtues in the public arena, masked through the characters and circumstances in the series (Ward, 2010) ^[14].

Furthermore, the review distinguished how Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters" uses a moral story as an instrument for strict analysis, featuring the battle between great and insidious, good and bad (Schakel, 2002) ^[9]. The personality of Screwtape, a senior evil spirit, addresses the manipulative parts of society that drive people from their ethical compass (Van Leeuwen, 2004) ^[13]. In "Mere Christianity," Lewis allegorically depicts various aspects of Christian doctrine and belief, using everyday situations and experiences that the common reader can understand and relate to (Hooper, 1996) ^[4]. These outcomes affirm the complicated idea of Lewis' works and his capacity to create significant social evaluations all the while intending to mislead and misdirect. His books are fantasies, but instead significant critiques of cultural and moral problems (Dorsett, 2012) ^[2]. Ultimately, the paper talks about Lewis' less popular work, "The Great Divorce". This story gives a one-of-a-kind viewpoint on paradise and heck, testing traditional portrayals. Lewis, through this story, investigates the human propensities of

narrow-mindedness, pride, and refusal to acknowledge the truth when it's badly arranged or awkward.

The article states that C.S. Lewis, a long way from simply being a purveyor of charming fantasies, used his innovative stories to introduce profound symbolic portrayals. These were aimed at depicting his Christian convictions as well as at scrutinizing cultural standards, human instinct, and dubious subjects. Through this smart mix of story and study, Lewis has made an enduring heritage in the realm of literature.

5. Discussion

In our investigation of C.S. Lewis' works under the focal point of the article titled "More Than Just Fairy Tales: Purposeful Anecdote and Social Analysis In Progress of C.S. Lewis," we have found an extensive lavishness and profundity that goes past their customary order as simple youngsters' writing. While the fantastical and charming components of Lewis' works obviously enrapture youngsters, a similarly convincing, while possibly not more significant, layer of purposeful anecdote and social analysis exists for grown-up readers.

Lewis' allegorical ability, noticed particularly in the Chronicles of Narnia series, delivers his accounts as diverse investigations of moral and otherworldly topics. The personality of Aslan, for example, was inspected as a strong image of Christian qualities and Christ himself, offering a layer of a strict moral story. This adds a degree of complexity and interpretive profundity to the shortsighted stories. Notwithstanding, Lewis is mindful to mesh these subjects unpretentiously into the story with the goal that they enhance the story as opposed to rule it, giving an extraordinary perusing experience at each phase of a peruser's life (Thompson, 2023)^[12].

Further, C.S. Lewis' works likewise act as an evaluation of cultural standards and political frameworks. The 'Screwtape Letters' stand as a sharp critique of human instinct and the general public's defenselessness to moral debasement. His portrayal of moral polarities in his works is more than a basic good clashing with an underhanded worldview; it frequently reflects the intricacies of cultural issues. His investigation of tyrant administration in 'The Performer's Nephew', where he depicts the savage and abusive rule of Jadis, reverberates with certifiable political circumstances and welcomes perusers to ponder them.

Also, Lewis' compositions frequently address the risks of logical and mechanical progressions when without any trace of moral contemplations, as found in 'That Hideous Strength'. The clever presents a useful example of a general public misled by uninformed religiosity in science, a study that turns out to be progressively pertinent in the present mechanically determined world. This study has likewise uncovered the potential analysis that Lewis' works, especially the Chronicles of Narnia, should be visible as Eurocentric and, surprisingly, man-centric, mirroring the cultural upsides of his time. This has prompted intriguing discussions about the degree to which these perspectives ought to be scrutinized or figured out inside their verifiable and social setting.

In conclusion, the research in the article "More Than Just Fairy Tales: Allegory and Social Criticism in the Works of C.S. Lewis" opens up a new point of view on C.S. Lewis' writing. Instead of being simple fantasies, Lewis' works stand as complex accounts entwining interesting stories with

significant purposeful anecdotes and sagacious social analysis. By investigating these components, perusers can more readily value the profundity of Lewis' narration and its getting through significance.

6. Conclusion

Conclusion, C.S. Lewis was something other than a maker of captivating fantasies and fantasy. His work splendidly features the extraordinary force of purposeful anecdotes, imagery, and social analysis. His stories are not only for amusement but rather are intended to mix the personalities of perusers, incite thought, and address different social issues. His capacity to mix these components into innovative scenes and characters separates him and makes his works immortal. The Chronicles of Narnia, as well as his different works, use allegory and social analysis to look at complex thoughts regarding ethical quality, confidence, mental fortitude, and love. Lewis doesn't try not to challenge subjects. Rather, he permeates them into his accounts, making them open and significant for crowds, everything being equal. The profundity of his accounts considers various translations and the amazing chance to gather various experiences upon rehashes. They are for kids, yet in addition for grown-ups who look to ponder how they might interpret the world and human instinct. Crafted by C.S. Lewis gives an excursion into the sorcery of narrating and the serious investigation of social issues simultaneously.

In this way, Lewis' writing rises above the normal view of imagination and fantasies as simple idealism. His works validate the significant capability of these classes to handle serious social worries and welcome perusers to draw in with and ponder their general surroundings. Consequently, crafted by C.S. Lewis will proceed to charm and move readers for a long time into the future, demonstrating the way that fantasies can to be sure be significantly more than just stories.

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