

# Important Influences of Multiple Characters of Tess

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**Abstract:** In Thomas Hardy's novel Tess of the D'Urbervilles, the heroine Tess has multiple characters. The work starts with the main characters of Tess. Meanwhile, it analyzes her personalities and their influences on the fate. Due to the kindness and simplicity in Tess, life tragedy finally comes to her. In particular, the pursuit for pureness brings heavy burdens to her spirits. However, influenced by the fighting, her tragedy has hierarchy. The innovation point in the work is to apply the method of multiple character-by-layer analysis.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In the classical novel Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy gives Tess characters of multiple levels by shaping her tragic life. Therefore, Tess has sharper contradictions in internal personalities. Moreover, it highlights Thomas Hardy's thoughts on the influences of human characters on tragic fates, especially the dispositional attributions to tragic destiny. Therefore, it is of literary values.

## 2 SIMPLICITY IN THE CHARACTER OF TESS AND ITS INFLUENCE: BECOMING A CLEAR-EYED AND INTELLIGENT WOMAN

In Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Tess is very simple. In the novel, Angel Clare calls Tess daughter of the nature, which is praise for her simplicity. Deep in Tess's characters, it is the simplicity of English countryside. Meanwhile, the simplicity is attached to her life. Beautiful Tess always keeps the simplicity brought from countryside. She has a real love for the nature and enthusiasm for life. Generally speaking, she is a rough and simple woman. In conclusion, the excellent qualities of workers are shown in Tess.

Although Tess is from the d'Urbervilles noble heritage pulse, she is not arrogant as d' Urbervilles gradually decline due to the development of

capitalism. Actually, Tess's father is a fallen street hawker in his generation of d' Urbervilles. Therefore, Tess has been influenced by culture of street and country estate very early and inspires people around her with simplicity. Meanwhile, Tess's simplicity gradually influences her work.

However, known from the priest the status that d'Urbervilles ever had, some vanity and complacent appear in Tess's parents. Meanwhile, Mrs d'Urbervilles also changes her mediocrity and hard working due to her family's origins. However, in such plebeian environment, Tess still keeps her simplicity and works hard. She always regards herself as child of working people, and does not show too much excitement for her family's glorious past. Meanwhile, she regards her mother as an ordinary milk lady and inherits beauty from her parents. Therefore, there is nothing worth blind admiration. In life, she regards herself as working people instead of nobility whenever she raises poultry in clan of d' Urbervilles or works in the milk factory. Thus, the simplicity highlights her tragedy.

## 3 KINDNESS IN CHARACTER OF TESS AND ITS INFLUENCE: ROOT CAUSE OF SLIDING TO TRAGEDY

Besides, Tess is also kind, which is shown in her love for life and hard working. She can bravely face

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difficulties in life and work. Moreover, she sacrifices herself for others' achievements. She lives in the Victorian era of the UK, when the British have great development as social productivity is promoted by the industrial revolution. However, rural areas that Tess lives in are hit by industrial civilization and gradually decline. Therefore, she has to face many hardships from an early age. As the eldest girl in the d'Urbervilles family, Tess helps her parents care for her younger brothers and sisters from very young. Meanwhile, she will have deep remorse for playing outside without taking care of family. The kindness in Tess lies in her working hard. Meanwhile, it brings her very heavy shackles. Due to her unwillingness to abandon the family, she loses her virginity at the lure of Yaele from d'Urbervilles. As Tess worries she might harm her family and Clay, she puts money Clay offers at home. After that, she walks into the vicissitudes of the society and wanders. Although it seems that Tess's sad fate results from the unfairness she suffers. In fact, it is due to the goodness in her heart. Finally she leaves her home to have street life because she dares not to fight with the shameless people as Yaele.

After Tess's father dies, the whole families are exiled by the countryside. Therefore, she has to be with Yaele to let family survive. Meanwhile, Tess's kindness gradually evolves into the endurance. It is so huge sacrifice that presses and tortures Tess spiritually, surpassing those of life and society. Meanwhile, Tess's brave sacrifice of herself also comes from her kindness.

However, Tess's kindness not only influences the responsibilities in raising family, but also inspires her friends and work. When Tess works in the milk factory, three of her colleagues fall love with Clay. Although she and Clay love each other, she does not show it in front of them. Considering that she has lost virginity, she decides to match one of the three girls with Clay to make him happy. It is shown in the plot that Tess praises their beauty and hard working. Meanwhile, she belittles her appearance and says it is brief. Due to her endurance and tough hiding from Clay, she is thrown into the tragedy of life. Therefore, despite touching, it is the kindness that leads her to tragedy.

#### **4 PURITY AND ITS INFLUENCE IN TESS: MORAL CLEANLINESS, AVOIDING SELF AND REALITY**

There is great purity in Tess's character, which is mainly shown in her attitudes towards love. She regards love as a loyal activity. Therefore, it needs more constancy and dedication. While going through twists and turns in life, pure love is unswerving. It is also the impact and projection of Tess's pure characters.

Therefore, the purity and pursuit for it have deep impacts on the relationship between Tess and Clay. In the novel, Clay, the hero of the novel, gets Tess's admiration. Uninfluenced by the value system, Clay does not have the cunning and laziness of the rich. Actually, he is polite, studious and diligent. However, Yaele is the typical rich who is crafty, rude, arrogant and luxury. Both the two men are influenced by Tess's purity.

Firstly, influenced by her pure love and pursuit for purity, Tess dares not to be close to such a giant and great man easily when she firstly faces Clay. She regards Clay as gods in Roman mythology. Therefore, she dares not to come too close to him as she regards it as blasphemy. Meanwhile, Tess thinks she is not innocent for being tarnished by the rich playboy Yaele. Therefore, the moral cleanliness makes Tess think she is filthy and there is no way to accept Clay's selfless love. Although influenced by her true feelings, Tess accepts Clay's wedding proposal. However, there are contradictions and conflicts in Tess as she never forgets the past. Thus, she lives in the shackles of spirits and morals, unable to get out of the barriers of inner heart. Finally, she decides to write to show her misfortunes. The contradictions of endurance and misfortunes make Tess very painful spiritually.

Secondly, when Clay is informed that Tess has lost virginity in the past, he is so angry that he goes to the South America. Tess still stands on her husband's decisions purely, including that she agrees to not use the first name Clay and does not write often. Actually, she keeps Clay's honor and dignity. The behavior that is almost blindly honest shows her pursuit for absolute purity and significant impacts of moral cleanliness. Thus, to avoid losing virginity again, she chooses to hide from life and covers her beauty as she lives in moral cleanliness. Finally, she comes to spiritual desperation. However, it is the absolute obedience of chastity and purity when judged from sense of roots.

## 5 THE FIGHTING CHARACTER AND ITS INFLUENCE IN CHARACTER OF TESS: STAND FIRM AND UNYIELDING AND DARE TO QUESTION

There are also very strong resistant colors in Tess. Although she is kind and pure, she does not lose fighting spirits against the reality. The fighting is mainly shown in the courage facing life's oppression, especially the double oppression of feudal morals and bourgeoisie. Meanwhile, she challenges the pedantic morals and social laws.

Firstly, Tess's fighting is shown in her unwillingness to fully become Yeale's toy. Although tarnished by Yeale, she does not fear his financial and social standing. On the contrary, she shows her faithfulness and fighting spirits. As she is influenced by her fighting spirit, Tess clearly knows Yeale's deception and lies. Therefore, she behaves decently facing him and shows her anger and refusal. When Yeale becomes entangled in her, Tess's hard slapping with gloves shows her courage. After facing numerous lies and deceptions of Yeale, Tess kills him following her fighting spirit. Finally, she goes to the execution ground easily and fights against the irrational social and moral orders with death. Meanwhile, the fighting spirit also has great impacts on her views on the religion. Fighting against the hypocritical religion, she is reluctant to ask gods for help. Besides, she gives baptism to her illegitimate son regardless of the so-called religious requirements. Showing contempt for the religion, she struggles against the hypocrisy in religion many times. In all, it also shows her scorn on hypocritical religious ethics. Thus, humanism sheds light on her life tragedy.

However, influenced by her fighting characters, Tess shows strength in her life. In particular, she is unwilling to compromise and pursues her life unswervingly. After losing virginity, Tess faces cold eyes and censure of neighbors. However, she is not bound by the so-called social morals and refuses to club to death. It is the incredible fighting spirit in her heart that supports her. Moreover, she questions the lagged chastity concepts. As she believes, as long as women chaste and self-respect, they have rights to live despite they lost virginity due to irresistible factors.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

As an important author in Victorian era, Thomas Hardy's idea of critical realism has great contributions in the literary world. Inheriting from the traditions of ancient Greek and Roman drama, as well as the traditional British drama of Elizabeth I, Hardy studies the tragic arts of the classics. Therefore, he gradually develops his unique art of tragic literature. Besides, from the ideological perspective, deeply influenced by the emerging philosopher Schopenhauer of Germany, he gradually follows the philosophy of pessimism. Finally, the pessimistic philosophy evolves into a kind of fatalism. Thus, Hardy creates many images of tragedy in his works. In particular, Tess represents fatalism in his representative works Tess of the D'Urbervilles. However, Tess's destiny is influenced by her personality. Although her characters lay groundwork for her tragic fate, they also show Hardy's reconsideration about female morals and values.

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