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## **Case of Psycho-Analysis in R.L. Stevenson's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**

**K. S. Shyalaja**

*Assistant Professor, Department of English  
Shanmuga Industries Arts and Science College, Thiruvannamalai.*

### **ABSTRACT:**

*This paper intends to investigate the ways in which psychoanalytic writing leads to the discourse of Stevenson's era, physiognomy, ambivalence, confession of guilty in the novel. The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The reflection of the Victorian era is imbibed by witnessing twilight of Western culture. As a result, Stevenson's novel explicit an inextricable link between civilization and savagery, good and evil. Jekyll's attraction to the freedom from restraint and that Hyde allegedly enjoys mirrors of secret attraction to savage non-Western cultures, claimed superiority over them. . Stevenson applied the science of physiognomy to deficit pure and impure motives of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Hiding and concealing things from each other leads to Ambivalence. Stevenson depicts the characters, having opposed attitudes towards the same person. In this novel Dr. Jekyll intends to take the Hyde's shape more often to possess a force more powerful than Jekyll. All of these observations imply that civilization has its darker side. Ultimately, While Stevenson Clearly asserts human nature has the possession of two aspects. Perhaps they consist of evil and virtue; perhaps they represent one's inner animal and that civilization has imposed. Based on human psychology, Stevenson enhances the richness of the novel by leaving us to look within ourselves to find answers. Perhaps the confession of Hyde's guilty consciousness offers through a transcription of the letter for Utterson in the laboratory. Thus, this novella revolves around abnormal psychology which paved the way for double consciousness. It also refers to the primitive reality of the human being, when Jekyll refers to himself as compound conscious personality is a compound resultant of every complex states.*

This paper intends to investigate the ways in which psychoanalytic writing leads to the discourse of Stevenson's era, physiognomy, ambivalence, confession of guilty in the novel The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Generally the term "psycho-analysis" means "a technical procedure or device for finding out unconscious mental process. Stevenson's certain identity Dr. Jekyll and uncertain identity Mr. Hyde represents the complicated psycho-analytic form. R.L. Stevenson seems to comment on a Victorian society by implementing dia-metric opposition in the physical identical form between Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Stevenson invented these paradoxical characters to make his novel interesting.

Stevenson's age, The Victorian era, named for Queen Victoria, who ruled England for most of the nineteenth century, was a time of unprecedented technological progress and an age in which European nations carved up the world with their empires. By the end of the century, many people were beginning to call into question the ideals of progress and civilization that had defined the era, and a growing sense of pessimism and decline pervaded artistic circles. In Victorian England, Life was also witnessing twilight of Western culture.

Hence, Stevenson's novel also explicit an inextricable link between civilization and savagery, good and evil. Jekyll's attraction to the freedom from restraint and that Hyde allegedly enjoys mirrors of secret attraction to savage non-Western cultures, claimed superiority over them. This attraction has evidenced in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. For, as the Western world came in contact with other peoples and that stylistic ways of life, created a desire but feared the people of era to indulge in them, because of open sensuality and physicality.

According to Freud's "The interpretation of dreams", *The object of psycho-analytic literary criticism can be the psycho-analysis of the author or of a particularly interesting character in a given work*. Here Dr. Jekyll's scientific interest led to mystical studies so as to divide the nature of man. He hoped to find some solution to his own split nature. This dominance of Hyde—first as a latent force within Jekyll, then as a tyrannical external force subverting Jekyll—holds various implications for our understanding of human nature. We may recall that Hyde is described as resembling a "troglodyte," or a primitive creature; perhaps Hyde is actually the original, authentic nature of man, which has been repressed but not destroyed by the accumulated weight of civilization, conscience, and societal norms. Perhaps man doesn't have two natures but rather a single, primitive, amoral one that remains just barely constrained by the bonds of civilization..—which considered itself the height of Western civilization. Even as Victorian England sought to assert its civilization over and against these instinctual sides of life, it found them secretly fascinating. Indeed, society's repression of its darker side only increased the fascination. As a product of this society, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* manifests this fascination as a work of art.

Every human being contains opposite forces within him or her, "an alter ego that hides behind one's polite façade." Correspondingly, to comprehend the significance of Dr. Jekyll, Stevenson applied the science of physiognomy that largely appears as moral and decent and made him to engage in charity work. He enjoys the reputation as a courteous and genial man. He begins his experiment with good intention but motivated by dark urges such as ambition and pride like Dr. Faustus motivated by necromancy.

The physiognomy of impure motive seems to subjugate through the release of Mr. Hyde. Stevenson polished Hyde as physical ugliness and deformity which symbolizes his moral hideousness and warped ethics. His hairiness and claws indicate animalistic core. Here Stevenson clearly picturizes identification of good and a criminal by physical appearance. In such images Stevenson novel, *The Strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is described as a "Fine Bogey Tale".

Hiding and concealing things from each other leads to Ambivalence. Stevenson depicts the characters, having opposed attitudes towards the same person. In this novel Dr. Jekyll intends to take the Hyde's shape more often to possess a force more powerful than Jekyll. This arbitrary state of human mind has a chance to assert a comparable virtuous essence. The dominance of Hyde is used as a latent force within Jekyll. The character Utterson status has applied as the epitome of Victorian norms. His devotion to reason and commonsense leads to study of humankind. Stevenson preferred Utterson for the suppression or avoidance of revelations to the scandal and chaos.

The novel tells us that city people can hide squalid, unpleasant parts behind impressive, elegant facades. It describes exteriors different from their interiors. The fronts look different from the backs. Many of the characters conceal things from each other. Jekyll hides his experiment from friends and colleagues. Hyde's name is used as a pun. Richard Enfield at first hides Jekyll identity from Utterson. Utterson hides information from the police. The theme of concealment and many factual are hidden in scribbled notes, messages and letter. All the characters are hypocrite to each other. All of these observations imply that civilization has its darker side. Ultimately, While Stevenson Clearly asserts human nature as possessing two aspects, he leaves upon the question of what these aspects constitute. Perhaps they consist of evil and virtue; perhaps they represent one's inner animal and that civilization has imposed.

Based on human psychology, Stevenson enhances the richness of the novel by leaving us to look within ourselves to find answers. Perhaps the confession of Hyde's guilty consciousness offers through a transcription of the letter for Utterson in the laboratory. Jekyll writes that upon his birth he possessed a large inheritance, a healthy body, and a hardworking, decent nature. His idealism allowed him to maintain a respectable seriousness in public while hiding his more frivolous and indecent side. By the time he was fully grown, he found himself leading a dual life, in which his better side constantly felt guilt for the transgressions of his darker side. This confession reminded the lines of Alexander Pope, "Know Thyself". The mystery of Jekyll and Hyde is gradually revealed to the reader through the disparate narratives of Mr Enfield, Mr Utterson, Dr Lanyon and Poole, the butler at Jekyll's house. The respectable Dr Jekyll wants to separate the goods and evil aspects of his nature. By means of a transforming drug he has secretly developed in his laboratory, he succeeds in freeing his evil propensities into the repulsive form of Mr Hyde. Initially he finds it easy to return to the personality of Jekyll, but in time this becomes more difficult and he finds himself slipping involuntary into being Hyde. Eventually his supplies of the drug run out and he cannot manage to reduplicate the chemical formula. Hyde is now wanted for murder and Jekyll kills himself. The body discovered in his sanctum is that of Hyde, but the confession Jekyll leaves behind those two men were versions of the same person. The story is attracted much commentary, being read as another version of the Scottish Arminianism of James Hogg's Private Memories and Confessions of a Justified Sinner, as a variant of the doppelganger myth, as a pre-Freudian study of Ego and libido. G.K. Chesterton noted that Hyde is not a diabolic alter ego but a diminished part of Jekyll's whole personality, pure evil where Jekyll is a mixture of good and evil. He deluded belief that, man is dual rather than whole, the good in him can hence be separated from the evil, provides a study in degeneration an ultimate human responsibility.

Thus, this novella revolves around abnormal psychology which paved the way for double consciousness. It also refers to the primitive reality of the human being, when Jekyll refers to himself as *compound conscious personality is a compound resultant of every complex states*. With the psychological novels of the nineteenth century Jekyll diagnoses Hyde as his morally insane self because the potion changes visual shape as well as cognitive thought.

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