

ANALYSIS OF “THE LITTLE PRINCE” BY ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY

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ABSTRACT

The Little Prince is stylistically analyzed in the paper. Author’s writing style of the work is discussed and successfully using stylistic devices including climax, foreshadowing, imagery, paradox, parallelism, metonymy and synecdoche, personification are reviewed during the analysis.

Keywords: analysis, review, The Little Prince, stylistic devices, climax, foreshadowing, imagery, paradox, parallelism, metonymy, synecdoche, personification.

INTRODUCTION

The Little Prince, (French **Le Petit Prince**), fable and modern classic by French aviator and writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry that was published with his own illustrations in French as *Le Petit Prince* in 1943. The simple tale tells the story of a child, the little prince, who travels the universe gaining wisdom. The novella has been translated into hundreds of languages and has sold some 200 million copies worldwide, making it one of the best-selling books in publishing history.

The Little Prince draws unflattering portraits of grown-ups as being hopelessly narrow-minded. In contrast, children come to wisdom through open-mindedness and a willingness to explore the world around them and within themselves. The main theme of the fable is expressed in the secret that the fox tells the little prince: “It is only with the heart that one can see rightly: what is essential is invisible to the eye.”

French- and English-language versions of the novella were published in April 1943 (though the book did not appear in France until 1946). Critics were unsure what to make of *The Little Prince*, and it was not immediately popular. It was unclear whether the book was meant for children or adults, though British writer P.L. Travers said that it had the necessary ingredients for a children’s book in that “it is true in the most

inward sense, it offers no explanations and it has a moral.” However, the novella ultimately became a beloved classic, its story resonating with readers of all ages.[1]

LITERATURE REVIEW

Technically, most of this book takes place in the Sahara Desert. This is where the narrator first meets the prince, and this is where the two of them spend all their time together. So, what’s this desert like? Well, to start with, the desert appears to be just like a stereotypical desert. It’s a huge stretch of dry nothingness. The narrator explains: “The first night [...in the desert] I went to sleep on the sand, a thousand miles from any human habitation. I was more isolated than a shipwrecked sailor on a raft in the middle of the ocean”.

On a metaphorical level, the narrator has been living in a desert all of life, hasn’t he? He has no friends or meaningful relationships or human connections. So the setting of the desert magnifies the loneliness of his life. And then, like a drink of cool water in the desert, the little prince makes his way into the narrator’s life.

As you read, you might want to keep an eye on the connection between the narrator’s feelings about his situation and his descriptions of the desert. As the narrator’s friendship with the prince grows, his opinions about the desert also change.

After the prince tells the narrator about the fox’s words of wisdom, the narrator finds beauty even in the desert, which seemed like a lonely and difficult place before. He exclaims, “The house, the stars, the desert—what gives them their beauty is something that is invisible!”. He can locate the “invisible” thing that makes the desert beautiful. He has learned how to “see rightly” and is practicing on the desert. By the end of the book, when the prince is gone, the desert has become “the loveliest and saddest landscape in the world” because it was “here that the little prince appeared on Earth, and disappeared” (Epilogue 1). Being able to recognize it is so important that the narrator describes it in words and images, even including his desert landscape picture two times. [2]

ANALYSIS

Climax - The climax happens when the little prince realizes the importance of his rose, and this happens after the

fox tells him his secret. It clears everything up for the little prince.

Foreshadowing - "When I drew the baobabs, I was inspired by a sense of urgency" (The narrator, p. 16). This gives the sense that something dramatic or tragic is going to happen, which it does when the prince dies.

Understatement - "I'm leaving today, too" (The little prince, p. 74). This is an understatement because he is actually going to kill himself. "There had been nothing but a yellow flash close to his ankle... He fell gently, the way a tree falls" (The narrator, p. 81). This is an understatement because he died, rather than just fell over.

Imagery - Imagery is used when describing the home planet of the little prince and other planets. Also, vivid descriptions of the desert, especially at night, help to get deeper into the characters' inner world.

Paradox - The paradox exists in the fact that people are supposed to become wiser and smarter as they grow up into adults, but they on the contrary are grow farther away from such qualities. Everything has to be explained to them.

Parallelism - The pilot's crash in the desert is paralleled by the prince's.

Metonymy and Synecdoche - "I was awakened by an odd little voice" means that he was awakened by the little prince.

Personification - "She dressed herself slowly. She adjusted her petals one by one" (The little prince, p. 22). The little prince is describing the rose. [3]

CONCLUSION

This masterpiece cannot be described or explained by the words. We only can feel it as our heart follows how to understand. While analyzing this work I came across of many thoughts which I found the real meaning of the life that the author wanted to show to his readers. Inside all of us there live the little version of ourselves who we cannot make them grow. Yes, this is our childhood which we do not want them to grow up. But for some "peculiar" occasions we slowly become the grown-ups who we never "understand and want explanation for everything". As there mentioned in the book: "it is only through your heart that you can see clearly. The eyes do not see that which is most important". These words have strong meaning from the philosophical point of view. We do not realize the real value of time by chasing for nonsense and think that we can be happy if we have amounts of money and we can be powerful if we are wealthy. In my humble opinion this is the most common

wrong way of thinking among the human beings. Every time that is given to us is precious and we should be satisfied and not to make our life difficult for living. That is how I want to conclude my saying is, always carry your little version in your heart and keep him safe from “grown-ups” because he never wants to grow up and be like them.

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