Class Report: Comparison Between Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo

By: [Your Name]

Subject: Filipino Literature / José Rizal's Novels

Date: [Insert Date]

# I. Introduction

José Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines, wrote two monumental novels that awakened Filipino nationalism: \*Noli Me Tangere\* and \*El Filibusterismo\*. These novels unveiled the harsh realities of Spanish colonial rule, particularly the abuse of power by friars and civil authorities. By exposing the injustices of the time, Rizal sought to inspire a sense of identity and the desire for reform among Filipinos. Though fictional, these works reflect real historical conditions and offer timeless insights into the struggles of a colonized people.

# II. Comparison Overview

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| Aspect | Noli Me Tangere | El Filibusterismo |
| Title Meaning | “Touch Me Not” (Latin) | “The Reign of Greed” (Spanish) |
| Tone | Romantic, hopeful, reformist | Dark, vengeful, revolutionary |
| Main Theme | Social injustice and the need for reform | Revenge and revolution |
| Main Character | Crisostomo Ibarra | Simoun (Ibarra’s alter ego) |
| Love Story | Central (Ibarra and Maria Clara) | Secondary and tragic |
| Approach | Peaceful reform through education | Violent upheaval due to failed reforms |
| Ending | Tragic, but hopeful | Tragic, with deeper despair |

# III. Character Comparison

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Noli Me Tangere | El Filibusterismo | Development / Notes |
| Crisostomo Ibarra | Simoun | Transformed into a vengeful revolutionary |
| Maria Clara | Mentioned only | Became a nun; died in the convent |
| Elias | Deceased | Symbol of selfless revolution |
| Sisa | Deceased | Symbol of the oppressed Filipino mother |
| Basilio | Basilio | Now a medical student; tempted by revolution |
| Padre Dámaso | Deceased | His legacy remains through church abuse |
| Padre Salví | Padre Salví | Becomes more powerful and manipulative |
| Kapitan Tiago | Addicted and ruined | Lost status and hope |
| Pilosopo Tasyo | Deceased | His ideas influence future revolutionaries |
| Doña Victorina | Doña Victorina | Still clings to colonial mentality |
| New Characters | Isagani, Paulita Gomez, Padre Camorra, Don Custodio | Represent younger generation and deeper political corruption |

# IV. Themes and Messages

- Social Injustice: Rizal uses both novels to portray the widespread abuse of power by the clergy, the corruption in the government, and the suffering of ordinary Filipinos. Characters like Sisa, Kapitan Tiago, and Elias show how the system exploited the poor and silenced the righteous.

- Transformation of Ideals: Ibarra's evolution into Simoun is symbolic of Rizal's own growing disillusionment with the Spanish regime. While Ibarra believed education could bring change, Simoun believed that only revolution could uproot the deeply entrenched corruption.

- Revolution vs. Reform: Noli Me Tangere promotes reform through peaceful means—dialogue, education, and compassion. El Filibusterismo, on the other hand, presents a bleaker view—one where even noble intentions are crushed by a corrupt system, leaving violent resistance as the only option. Rizal does not fully endorse violence but uses it as a stark contrast to failed reform.

# V. Character Map

(A visual diagram is provided to illustrate the character transitions and relationships across both novels.)

# VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, \*Noli Me Tangere\* and \*El Filibusterismo\* remain essential literary works in Philippine history. They serve as mirrors to the Filipino people's past, portraying the dangers of oppression, the struggle for justice, and the consequences of action versus inaction. Rizal’s courage to write against the regime paved the way for national awakening. Today, these novels remind students not only of the cost of freedom but also of the enduring value of patriotism, critical thinking, and moral responsibility.

# VII. References

- Noli Me Tangere, José Rizal

- El Filibusterismo, José Rizal

- Philippine Literature textbooks

- Historical analyses of Rizal’s works