

James Joyce's Portrait of the Artist of a Young Man

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This paper attempts to offer intertextual evidences in Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man to demonstrate the engagement of the discipline of English literature with other disciplines such as Sociology, Psychology and Mythology; hence to insight how these interdisciplinary encounters give a more appreciation and interpretation of the novel as Graeme Turner argues " It has enabled the crossing of disciplinary borders and the reframing of our ways of knowing so that we might acknowledge the complexity and importance of the idea of culture..... to change our lives for the better." (p.227) Also it attempts to highlight how they are used successfully to make this novel classified as high culture. Raymond William states " the best that has been thought and written in the world."

(<http://www.newrepublic.com/book/review/high-and-popular-culture>)

This means that the high culture is associated with the literary work that was produced by a highly skilled labour and would only be appreciated by a society's most learned members who have got high significant education. In other words, Joyce intensifies and involves various fictional literary genres such as Kunstlerroman and Love Story to provide a colossal amount of allusions to be interpreted from a Marxist, Psychoanalytic and Feminist points of view. Joyce skillfully uses intertextual allusions of Mythology and Thomas Moore's poems and songs. All these are used to highlight the power struggles between the society and religion in Ireland from one hand and his dissatisfaction of the social-economical circumstances from another hand. Also to demonstrate how Stephen Dedalus tries to build up his identity and self-mastery despite facing inner struggles between his psychic apparatus (id ,ego and super ego) throughout the whole novel to achieve his ambitions and desires. To make these ambitions more reachable and possible, Joyce compares Dedalus with the Greek architect Daedalus and his son Icarus ,who tried to escape from the imprisonment of king Minos by making wings of feathers and wax to set off for freedom and to continue their creativity. Joyce's use of mythology illuminates the compatibility of portraying multilayered imagery by which Stephen Dedalus accomplishes his individual philosophy. Joyce's deliberate intertextuality succeeded to portray the artist's consciousness development since childhood till adolescence. When Stephen becomes an adult , he is able to figure out the right path or decision when he decides to leave Dublin and fly to France holding on his ingenuity and identity.

Interdisciplinarity is an ultimate academic process that is used by scholars and critics of cultural studies which starts with overhauling the discipline of English literature with other disciplines to be all into dialogues to synthesize knowledge and skills in order to reach the best interpretation and appreciation of a literary text and to facilitate its study . This academic process must be engaged with philosophy, psychology, mythology, sociology , or anthropology and must be applied by depicting intertextual allusions, denotations and connotations of the literary text. As Joe Spriggs complains that English literature is doing little when its for its sake. Edward Said agrees with Joe Spriggs that the literary text must be put in its context to be politically effective , socially aware and historically informed.

Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man presents the artistic development of a young man by considering and portraying every single event and feeling through a wide variation of genres of Love Story and Kunstlerroman . Also Joyce's novel is considered outrageous with regard to the modernists' techniques of using the stream of consciousness as a method of narration which is implemented to reveal the theme of alienation as a result of feeling homeless when he moves to different schools and meets new people We find Stephen tries always to think about his mother , home , words or uses imagination to recover his despair and also he uses this method of narration to champion and celebrate his inner creativity. Moreover , the novel is engaged with many disciplines such as sociology , mythology , anthropology , psychology and philosophy . In this way it allows the scholar to appreciate this work of literature within different contexts which makes it autonomous and applicable to most of the literary research fields. Joyce's use of the language , images , colours, symbols and method of narration makes the novel easy to be dramatized and filmed.

To engage Joyce's A Portrait of the artist as a Young Man with sociology to insight the interdisciplinarity through a Marxist reading of the novel . We observe the political struggles from the first pages of the novel between Stephen's aunt 'Dante' and his father's fiend 'Mr. Casey' at the Christmas dinner who blames the church of Parnell's death as he is considered a loss that he couldn't achieve the Irish independence from England as he promised. Irish independence means to provide Ireland with a better life economically and politically as Ireland went through serious economic problems during the nineteenth century. 'Charles Parnell was condemned by the Catholic church because of his affair with a married woman. 'Dante' disagrees with Mr. Dedalus and Mr. Casey that the priest should lead his flock with what it is right and what it is wrong by his own morality , in other words she finds that Parnell is an unqualified and unreliable leader of Ireland because of his sin. She says that "God and morality and religion come first God and religion before everythingGod and religion before the world" (p.87) . In contrary, Mr. Dedalus believes that politics and religion should be separated and says that the priests should not meddle in politics " Nobody is saying a word against them, so long as they don't meddle in politics." (p.69) . Mr. Casey agrees with Mr. Dedalus that he confirms on the idea of going to the church to pray not to hear election addresses. Also Mr. Casey wants to live "away with God" (p.88) Mr. Casey, however, feels proud of Parnell "my dead king " (p. 89) ; hence he believes in him to be a powerful leader for Ireland. Therefore, Stephen Dedalus who is nine years old recognizes this dialectic conversation which reflects the capitalist system which has struggles between the political power and the religious power and also finds it rather harmful than useful ; due to the death of 'Charles Parnell' . This conversation is particularly significant to reveal about the turning point of the Ireland's political circumstances of the decay the religious power in Ireland and the elimination of the proletariat in the final years of the nineteenth century. To put it differently , Stephen believes when he prays, he must humble himself to be like the poor people. As a result, the priest might accept his pray ; due to the Catholic belief . This leads us to believe that the priest has got a higher social rank and the prayers have got a lower social rank ,the oppressed, because they ask for mercy and forgiveness by confessing humbly their sins then the priest may forgive as he has got the power to forgive or not . Stephen says " His soul was foul with sin and he dared not ask forgiveness with the simple trust of those whom Jesus,

in the mysterious ways of God ,had called first to His side , the carpenter, the fishermen , poor and simple people following a lowly trade" (p.355)

Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man highlights the economic structure which has distinctive gaps between the haves and the have nots. The haves such as marshals and magistrates , however, none of them have the power, but the clergy of the Catholic Church is the most powerful man in Ireland , the novel states " the power of the keys, the power to bind and loose from sin, the power of exorcism, the power to cast out from the creatures of God " (p.397) The have-nots such as fishermen , carpenters and Dedalus family who is suffering from a financial decline steadily throughout the novel. The novel states " Two great yellow caravans had halted one morning before the door and men had come tramping into the house to dismantle it." (p. 155) By applying a Marxist reading on Dedalus family's life , it's obvious to observe many indicators of the economic situation which worsens by moving to different houses and that shows the instability of the social rank in Ireland at that time. Also Stephen Dedalus describes the streets as dirty , slimy and narrow " he had wandered into a maze of narrow and dirty streets" (p.245) Furthermore, the family can't afford to buy the basic needs of food or even the kitchen equipment . "Tea was nearly over and only the last of the second watered tea remained in the bottoms of the small glass-jars and jampots which did service for teacups... and a knife with a broken ivory handle was stuck " (p. 409). Therefore , Stephen shows a great deal of humiliation and alienation among his colleagues and family" passing his way amid the squalor and noise and sloth" (p. 445). Also the novel states that "A boy named Fallon in Belvedere had often asked him with a silly laugh why they moved so often. A frown of scorn darkened quickly his forehead" (p. 411) What is more significant , Stephen attempts to find a work to provide his family with money and tries to alienate himself from this economic situation by composing poetry and he tries to develop his ingenuity hence he wants to make his wishes become true . In other words , ingenuity is the flip -side of economics to reveal about despair or oppression caused by the socioeconomic factors.

From a revolutionary and a queer feminist point of view , we observe that Joyce supports femininity hence he portrays Stephen Dedalus as convenient as he stays with women ,especially his mother "His mother had a nicer smell than his father"(p.9) . The impact of women relies on Stephen's inability to control his emotions when it comes to them because they are either an object of desire as the prostitute or a pure figure or virgin Mary as his mother who takes care as the earth which takes care of the creations and gives them food and shelter "As he thinks of the earth that had borne him, that had taken him to her breast"(p.434) . Stephen's mother guides him of what to do like to "apologize" (p. 10) and not to do like "not to speak with rough boys" , "Nice mother (p.13) He doesn't stop thinking of his mother when he is alone specifically when he wondered about kissing his mother and his fellows teased him . As Stephen becomes older, he realizes his mother's impact more that he can't reject her orders because she is the image of the pure woman , nevertheless Stephen's mother shows her disappointment when she denies Stephen's actions when he joins the university. Furthermore , Stephen's bildungsroman progresses clearer in his relationship with art through women . In other words, Stephen's mother and Dante , are considered the first source of inspiration when he wrote a poem " apologize , the eagle will come and pull out your eyes" (p.10) This is obvious as they planted these words in his mind and inspired him to write a poem at the age of five. Also Dante inspires him when she explains a geographical lesson and therefore he wrote another

poem. In addition , Stephen's failure to kiss a girl of his own age in the tram inspires him to create a love poem in order to achieve what is impossible in real life. Stephen states "Now it seemed as if he would fail again but, by dint of brooding on the incident, he thought himself into confidence. " (p. 169) Stephen's sins with women are urgent to the fulfillment of his artistic ambition that he chooses to fulfill his ambition to be an artist with no restriction because he thinks the sexual experiences will inspire him and develop his masculinity . He states "to live, to err, to fall, to triumph, to recreate life out of life ! A wild angel had appeared to him! " (p. 433)

Stephen's quest for self-affirmation to be an artist despite facing some obstructions such as poverty , religious and political restrictions beside being shy ,aloof and introverted . He insists to achieve his self-mastery by alienating himself sometimes and rejecting the political restrictions other times. Stephen's reactions can be interpreted by a psychoanalytic reading through depicting the novel as a *Kunstlerroman*. Moreover, Stephen attempts to write poems since he is five years old and his intention to leave Dublin can be justified as a psychotherapy to remedy the repression he suffers from. He states " I go to encounter for the millionth time the reality of experience and to forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race" (p.643). Whereas Stephen suffers from poverty , he alienates himself from his family , friends and priests and decides to dedicate himself only to the art. Joyce uses the mode of narration of stream of consciousness to mingle with conscious and unconscious feelings, thoughts and actions to celebrate his inner self and share it with the reader's private inner. His inner self is in debate or in other words is in conflict to follow its Id or its Ego. The urgent question is : How does Stephen deal with this deadly sin ' lust' to control his Ego despite being brought up in a conservative environment ? The answer will be explained through depicting Stephen's life. Since he is a young boy, he joins a Jesuit boarding school in Kildare, where he learns about religion and geography and where he develops his education and personality to be very sensible and thoughtful ,this can be observed when he is in the study hall trying to memorize the names of countries and continents. Despite finding it a difficult topic, he creates a poem to locate himself in the world and then concludes that only God knows everything about what is beyond the universe. He says " It was very big to think about everything and everything where. Only God could do that." (p. 31) Then we observe that Stephen experiences a strange epiphany of a girl on the beach and he composes a magnificent poetic description of the girl. He enhances himself for creativity but distances himself from religion. He states "Her long slender bare legs were delicate as a crane's and pure save where an emerald trail of seaweed had fashioned itself as a sign upon the flesh. Her thighs, fuller and soft-hued as ivory ,were bared almost to the hips" (p. 431) Also Stephen attends the university of Dublin, where he develops his knowledge by learning about of Thomas Aquinas and Aristotle. He states "So far as this side of esthetic philosophy extends. Aquinas will carry me all along the line. When we come to the phenomena of artistic conception , artistic gestation , and artistic reproduction I require a new terminology and a new personal experience." (p.530) All these incidents advocate the idea that Stephen follows his Ego to achieve his desires of being an artist by the woman as it is the tool of his inspiration. When Stephen commits a sin , he tries to repent but meanwhile he is trying to pure himself from sins , he finds it difficult to accepts Catholicism as this develops throughout the novel starting since he joins Jesuit schools and its priests shows absolute power and authority , his conflict with Father

Dolan who doesn't want to believe Stephen that didn't break the glasses and punishes him but at the end he expresses his happiness when he leaves Jesuit school. He states "He was happy and free; but he wouldn't be anyway proud with Father Dolan." (p. 138) Considering Stephen's reactions, we infer that he fulfills his hunger for art and needs it to liberate his soul by experiencing everything without restrictions and by grabbing any clue to inspire him to improve his linguistic capacity to write poems. To put it differently, he displaces his mysteries and miseries into playfulness of words to improve his language.

With regard to Freud's theories of behavior psychoanalysis, he argues that the unconscious which is filled with memories that happened during childhood formulates behaviour and control the person's actions especially if the memories were painful. This may justify Stephen's suppression of emotions when he says that he wants to marry Eileen and this is faced with threats of pulling the eyes and force him to apologize. We notice that Stephen chokes his emotions but this increases his instincts towards women when he becomes young. He describes Emma, a girl who he has never sit with or talked to, as the symbol of beauty and femininity. He states "If she knew to what his mind had subjected her or how brute-like lust had torn and trampled upon her innocence! Was that boyish love? Was that chivalry? Was that poetry? The sordid details of his orgies shrank under his very nostrils." (p. 285) Moreover, his tendency to women is portrayed in Stephen's need to be always attached with his mother; to find the comfort, the protection and the emotional support that he doesn't find with his father. His father symbolizes the bad example of adolescence that Stephen doesn't like firstly because his father is unable to provide his family with a good social rank, secondly because he is alcoholic and finally because he is detached from rearing him up to tell Stephen the evening prayers and the dos and don'ts as his mother always does. This is obvious as Stephen reveals about the gap between the father-son relation "Old father, old artificer, stand me now and ever in good stead." (p.643)

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man demonstrates the autonomy and timelessness of myth in the Western literary works. Joyce uses the mythological theme of Daedalus and Icarus to find a solution for his protagonist's problems. In other words, Joyce makes Stephen's ambitions become true and reachable by many illusions, firstly by using Daedalus, Stephen's surname which is originally Daedalus. Daedalus is the Greek inventor, who created a lifelike statue, a bull costume, a labyrinth, and wings, to show that they both share creativity, wealth of ideas and the spirit of exploring the exotic. Secondly, they both are imprisoned and want to set off for their freedom. Thirdly, they both present superhuman powers, Daedalus' inventions and the urgent invention of wings that the humans can fly with. And Stephen Daedalus' linguistic intelligence that he has since he is three years old. And finally, they both succeed to reach their ambitions and achieve their goals and both lose their families. Daedalus loses his nephew and son while Stephen Daedalus loses his family. Joyce's use of mingled relationships, successes, and failures advocate the novel with a multilayered imagery which all are in service to Stephen Daedalus' development as an artist. What is more interesting and significant, Joyce's use of this myth specifically the part of Icarus' flying to allude metaphorically Stephen's religious belief that goes up and down throughout the novel when he commits sins or when he repents.

Ultimately , this paper demonstrates that interdisciplinary studies is an innovative field of research which investigates intertextual evidences and allusions to give the literary work its value to be classified as it is considered high or popular culture , to appreciate it fully through putting it within different contexts , to immortalize the literary work if it alludes to anthropology or psychology as human nature overlaps and to combine them with social sciences. Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man is presented in the form of *Kunstlerroman* and *Bildungsroman* to allow the reader to examine closely the minute description of feelings , as this papers depicts these feelings justifies their function. In addition, it depicts the social, political, and religious incidents to demonstrate the obstructions and the problems that Stephen faces then tries to escape from through dedicating himself to art . All these interdisciplinary encounters help Joyce to portray the real artist's life which differs from others' life and to emphasize that the artist is an alien; because he can't share his ideas and creativity with normal people and reject the ordinary life and always attempts to be rebellious and reasonable or utopian in some ways.

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