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National Identity as a Base for Inequality Presented in Dracula and Shackles

Novels and Stories authors usually present a point in their writing. They present literature with different themes aimed at unfolding society's way of life. Society is faced with many challenges sourced from the people's view of others. Governments have different rules and impacts on people coming from other countries. One theme that has attracted writers and authors of short stories and novels is national identity. The Dracula novel by Bram Stocker and the Shackles short story by Melatu Okorie are the stories that talk about the theme.

Since time immemorial, people have moved from one place to another and from one country to another. The movement, although legal, has been due to various reasons in the mother nation. Some people have migrated to seek asylum, some seek education, medication, while others migrate for leisure. Life in a different country or nation is different from one home country, with different rules to follow.

In the Dracula novel, Bram Stocker, an Irish author presents a fictional story of a character he names Count Dracula. In the novel, Bram Stocker presents the story of Dracula trying to move from Transylvania to England. Dracula wants to distribute his cursed blood in England since he is a vampire. In the urge to spread the curse, Dracula faces opposition from Professor Abraham Van Helsing who leads a small group of people.

Dracula is faced with unending battles from Professor Abraham Van Helsing’s group who are the vampire hunters. Dracula's reign in Transylvania, where the curse had been absorbed, had become the normal way of vampire life. Dracula desired to find new blood in England where he could spread the curse and create an empire of vampires. These threaten human life in England hence signifying the work of Professor Abraham Van Helsing’s vampire hunters group.

After he had threatened Harker , Dracula essentially invaded England via Lucy Westenera, who is Physical embodiment of the west . The moment Dracula bites her, he is physically invading the golden female symbol that represents England and well the England being invaded. Furthermore, the novel demonstrates the spiritual aspects of Dracula. It is worth noting that Dracula is regarded as to be unholy in the Eyes of Christian England (Stoker 5). Her spiritual beliefs are not in line or consistent with those of other Christians. Hacker is just a male personification of a vulnerable English empire.

In Shackle's short story, Melatu Okorie presents a shackled lifestyle of a male character she names Osita. The story tells of the confinement, restrictions, and frustrations Osita faces in Dublin while staying in a hostel. Osita’s life in the new country as a migrant is faced with a lot of challenges with his residence in the new country. Osita’s hostel life in Dublin does not only affects him but also his family made of a pregnant wife and a daughter. Okorie’s work shows the challenges faced by migrants in their new countries despite their statuses in their home country. The author presents Osita's life in Dublin as a hard life together with a fellow migrant she names Joe. The story by Okorie presents the different national identity themes in the literature with the help of the Nigerian migrant. The characters in the story reflect on their home country’s view about their life in Dublin.

There is a great similarity between the Dracula novel and the Shackles short story. In both the novel and the short story, the authors’ works reflect on the Irish way of life and view on migrants. Bram Stocker is an Irish writer whose literature has had great similarities with another Irish writer on the Vampire genre. Melatu Okorie’s life has a history of migrant life where she lived in Ireland in an Asylum center (Okorie 188).

The Irish life in a hostel lived by Okorie is indirectly reflected in Shackle's story of Osita. The authors present the Irish view of people with different national identity in Ireland. The authors have had a life in Ireland and they have produced the stories based on their view or other people’s view on the Irish takes on migrants. The authors have had first-hand lifestyles in Ireland as a home and a migrant thereby knowing the way the Irish people believe in migrants. The authors' works hence are similar in conveying the message using different storylines.

Stocker’s novel and Okorie’s short story have some differences in the way they present the theme highlighted. The Dracula novel dates back to May 1897 when it was published (Mckeown 2013). The novel story thus dates back to the nineteenth century's people's view of migrants. Shackles story is a twenty-first story highlighting the century’s view on migrants in Ireland. They two artworks present different centuries with a full century apart. The Dracula story is presented as vampire or horror literature telling the Transylvania tales and folklores.

The Shackles story on the other hand talks about personal lifestyles presenting Osita’s lifestyle in a new country. The national identity theme in the Dracula story is different since it is protected in human life protection characteristics. The theme is directly visible in the Shackles story with the Character’s way of life in Dublin. They both present characters with different origins who face the same problem in the world society implying it as a global society's problem.

The novel presents education and medicine themes on the opposite side while the short story presents the gender role. The novel’s story is characterized by wars and battles, ending with deaths and murders while Okorie’s work purely talks of the lifestyle. The many challenges and difficulties experienced by Osita’s life as a migrant are not similar to the battles and opposition from Professor Abraham Van Helsing’s group of vampire hunters.

The authors’ works do not appear in the same timeline since Stocker's story is built from organized tales and pieces of stories earlier written. The novel presents many themes and pieces of information from the society while the short story presents a single point from the author. The stories present the different views of the society governed by governments on migrants. The literature highlights the deficit in consensus on matters of equality and human rights protection. The national originality or identity of an individual should not be a reason for hatred, sidelining, or bias in a global society of mankind.

**Works Cited**

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