



Deciphering the Distinctive Writing Style of H.G.Wells

Journeying through Time and Space

Suboor Ahmed

Research Scholar
Barkatullah University, Bhopal, India

Professor. Nidhi Tiwari

Abstract : This research paper delves into the peculiar style and thematic elements underscoring the impeccable endowment bequeathed to the genre. By analyzing the pioneering works, *The Time Machine* and *The Invisible Man*, this paper explores the narrative techniques, characterization and thematic preoccupations and everlasting impact of Wells' writing on the evolution of science fiction.

IndexTerms – H. G. Wells, science fiction, technological advancements.

I. Introduction

Herbert George Wells, is regarded as the Shakespeare of Science Fiction. He has left an indelible print in the pages of history of Science fiction and the world of English literature at large. One of the peculiar styles of H. G. Wells who is known as the father of science fiction. Through his prescient storytelling, Wells expanded the horizons of writing fiction without keeping the imaginations confined in pages when his imaginations turned into manifestations. Wells wrote predominantly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Basically he produced his work when the world was gearing up for the impending challenges due to industrial revolution and transition from one century into another. Well demonstrated a futuristic mentality and visionary approach to storytelling. Scientific speculation, social criticism and impeccable imagination characterised his prose by drawing readers into his perception of the future through his compelling narratives. His works are rich in containing innumerable underlying meanings not just for his generation but also for the human progeny following his era. He probes the societal and scientific advancements of his era which serves as a tool to explore philosophical, ethical and moral dilemmas immanent behind the veil of advancement of technology and human progress. H G Wells shares his astonishment at the observation.

II. Darwin's Influence on H.G. Wells' Literary Legacy

Darwin had already published the *Origin of Species* in 1859, two decades prior to the first publication of H G Wells (*Baule*) He was very much influenced by Darwin's theory. Darwin's theory paved ways for new scientific ideas in the fast progressive world and also hinted at the ambiguities with these rapid advancements. The phobia of misuse of science and technology for personal gains pervaded, Wells' Utopias question the leadership of scientists who are expected to contribute to world progress. (Khadija 12) Wells expounds the potential impending threats of class stratification and exploiting labours, as a repercussion to the unchecked capitalism and societal downfall. *The War of the Worlds* offers a perceptive analysis of imperialism and the self-conceit character of humans. In the novel, Earth is invaded by Martians, who surpass humans technologically and do not find any challenge in conquering humanity with their super advanced weaponry. Using this attack by technologically advanced creatures on a less developed technological geography is a criticism of pride of colonial powers and throws light on the proneness of human civilization to external threats. This also symbolises that humans considered technology which was mainly seen as a boon, at that point of time, will have to pay the cost for it in the form of lives of innocence.

III. Autobiographical elements

In his childhood, H. G. Wells read authors from Charles Dickens to Washington Irving voraciously after suffering from an accident which left him bedridden. (Schweitzer) Wells first book to be published was "Textbook of Biology" in 1893 and well prior to writing a book he earned scholarship from Normal School of Science and studied biology. (Nicholson) Textbook of Biology contributed significantly to refine and nurture H G Wells as an author and also shaped his ideas in very many ways. Many researches have emphasised on the possibilities of transformations and alterations in the human structure over a period of time. Humans have significantly undergone alterations ever since their evolution. The geographical and climatic conditions are inextricably responsible to cause changes in human structure. These changes include decrease in body size and brain size as well as reduction in jaw and tooth proportions. The population, regional wise, have developed different and unique physical and genetic characteristics. (Dorey) This is reflected in his work, The Time Machine, where he mentions first meeting with Elois, one of two post-human races in future, who have small mouth, and little chins that run to a point. (Wells 31) His involvement with the scientific community and being streamlined with most recent advancements in sciences contributed significantly in broadening the horizon of imagination and inevitably ingeniously incorporating innovative notions in his works. Foreshadowing in the works of H G Wells is very prominent. Why? Because it creates a sense of tension and intrigue and keeps the readers engaged throughout the story.

IV. Wells' astute forecasts that became reality

One of the most striking aspects of H.G. Wells' writing style is his ability to peep into the future and more importantly the impending threats due to technological advancements. In The Time Machine, H. G. Wells speculates that the people in the future do not possess reading and writing ability, one of the most essential elements that made up the 19th century civilized society of London. In order to validate this argument there are some recent technological developments made that have hinted that we, the human civilization, have taken our first step in this direction. The advent of smart speakers, exemplified by Siri, Alexa, Google Assistant, heralds a highly technologically advanced era in human-machine interaction. (Elnaj) This dynamic voice-controlled experience in domestic and professional environments, is thrusting present humans into the envisioned future of H G Wells. These smart speakers will eliminate the need of memorizing, reading or writing instructions. A plethora of tasks such as setting reminders, playing music, checking the weather, controlling smart electronic devices have already started to be performed by these smart speakers. Moreover, the Invisible Man stands as a testament to the peculiar style of H. G. Wells that is full of visionary prowess, innovative writing style and distinctive narrative approach in this classic work. H. G. Wells had the ability to create a palpable atmosphere of suspense and mystery with blending elements of social commentary and psychological insight. The invisibility in the work has been used as a metaphor for the alienation and isolation encountered by neglected individuals in society. The protagonist can be seen grappling with psychological impacts of his invisibility and its repercussions. Wells lures readers to uncover the horrors that lie behind the curtain of greed of man to become the supreme being using his intelligence and making scientific advancements.

V. Conclusion

In conclusion, the research has delved into the outstanding contributions of H G Wells through exploring his pioneering works such as The Time Machine and Invisible Man have left an indelible mark on the genre of science fiction and English literature as a whole. The meticulous analysis of narrative techniques, characterization and themes has underscored Wells' profound impact on the evolution of the genre. His peculiar style of telling a story expanded the horizons of fiction by probing into societal and scientific advancements. His works resonate not only with contemporary issues but gives the reader a glimpse of the impending threats and challenges of the future. Wells wrote predominantly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Basically he produced his work when the world was gearing up for the impending challenges due to industrial revolution and transition from one century into another. Well demonstrated a futuristic mentality and visionary approach to storytelling. Scientific speculation, social criticism and impeccable imagination characterised his prose by drawing readers into his perception of the future through his compelling narratives. The successors of Wells, not only in England but in other parts of the world too, seemed to carry the legacy forward both in terms of themes and style. Isaac Asimov, Rober A Heinlein and Jules Verne have been referred to as "Big Three " for their influential work for taking the science fiction genre to the next level which subsequently came to be known as "Hard Science Fiction". (Schweitzer)

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