

CORRUPTION AS SEEN IN MARK TWAIN'S SHORT STORY THE MAN WHO CORRUPTED HADLEYBURG.

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Abstract : *This study aims at analysing the story's portrayal of corruption. This study is a qualitative research, and this study employed an objective approach of M.H Abrams in analysing the data of corruption as seen in "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg". As the results, there are four types of corruption such as, Moral corruption is exemplified through the characters' susceptibility to greed and the erosion of their moral values when faced with the temptation of wealth. Ethics corruption is evident in the hypocrisy of Hadleyburg's residents, who, despite their outwardly virtuous appearances, succumb to deceitful practices when their integrity is challenged. Justice corruption is depicted in the manipulation of the town's justice system, emphasizing the ease with which corruption can infiltrate seemingly infallible institutions. Social corruption is explored through the ripple effect of dishonesty, showcasing how a single act of corruption can contaminate the entire social fabric of a community. In light of these findings, a fruitful avenue for further research on the themes of moral corruption, ethics corruption, justice corruption, and social corruption in "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg" could involve a comparative analysis with contemporary societal dynamics. Investigating how the depicted corrosive influences manifest in modern settings, exploring real-world instances of moral and ethical lapses, compromised justice systems, and social decay would provide insights into the enduring relevance of Mark Twain's narrative.*

Keywords: *Corruption, The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg, Twain, Literature.*

INTRODUCTION

Human life contains a variety of experiences which are directly captured by the human senses that recorded by his state of consciousness (Azis, 2009). The experiences of life are absorded by the state of consciousness, whether it comes from human sense or direct ideas. It will create an inner conflict inside the human's mind and become provokes to express an ideas in a creative way. This is the

authors' uniqueness. He can pour down his experiences in an interesting way into a medium level. In addition, he later claim can his work of literature.

Literature is the result of thoughts, feeling, and experiences from the writer's struggle. They pour into a medium of a language. A work of literature always presents a whole new reality as known the fictive reality. Basically, the writer denies and rejects the actual fact of reality. Wellek and Warren (1990:109) state that literature presents life and life is commonly about social reality therefore, literature aslo imitates nature and the subjective world of human being. This means that literature reflects the social issues from the life of society.

Based on this fact, scientific studies in literary works need to understand the literature because in such situations. Knowledge should be sought to identify the nature, function, and role in life. Wellek and Warren (1990:109) state that literature is often linked to certain social institutions. Literature has a social function and also it is not entirely private. Thus, the problems of literary studies imply a matter of convention, norm issues, genre, symbols matter, and myth.

Generally, an author's insights on literature including poetry, novel, or short story involve around the social culture environment which is found in the society. There is a significant relation between literature and the social culture environment that becomes the author's source of inspiration. This relationship is permanent since the literature, the writer, and the society have a strong correlation with the other. Therefore, the emersion of ideas from author or writer could not be seperated from the situation of his own society.

All the ideas are created by individual as a member of the society. It is the direct products of the society itself. As we can see, there is an involvement of literature in a society specifically, the realtion to the society that surround it. The tradition of a society is often recorded in a novel including the forms of social upheavals that occur in a society. These upheavals cover all the society's aspects in the change of social value as effect of the individuals' change in their view of life.

Therefore, it is natural that an author reveals the social upheavals in the works he made because they themselves are part of the community and participate in it.

Writers' act as the mediator of the people's voices and use their technical skills called as "Literature".

Hardjana (1991: 71) state that, the literary work would not be born if a social vacancy occurs or rather. Literature is not experiencing social vacancy but merely resides in a certain social situation. A social reality can be the literature main object because it is the illustration of life. Since, the situation found in literature could be used as a guide in situations from a society.

Beside that, literary works like any other art subdivisions, contain criticism of against society that commits social deviations. These critics appear due to the occurrence of authority abuse and the arbitrary act of irresponsible individuals. Referring to this, this proposal intends to analyze a short story called "*The Man that corrupted Hadleyburg*". This short story will be the writer's main object of analysis. This short story tells about the people's lives in Hadleyburg, a city that is well-known for its prosperity. However, a mysterious figure comes and tries to destroy the sense of harmony in that town. Beside that, the background of the author, Mark Twain become the reason from the writer to choose this short story as a main object. Mark Twain generally known as a person who bears the thoughts of corruption and makes as source of inspirations for his works.

The short story "*The Man that corrupted Hadleyburg*" by Mark Twain is very interesting because the depictions of events like the place in the story have a few similarities to the short story that will be analyzed from the corruption of American people. The writer confidently chooses corruption. Moreover, this short story also describes many problems from the society of America that they face at the time. This makes researcher interested to analyze this short story, especially in terms of corruption. As the limit of this research in this proposal, the writer was focused on corruption as seen in the short story *The Man that corrupted Hadleyburg*. The writer found how corruption reflects in the short story. Based on the topic which has been described at the limitation of the research, the writer explained the formulation of writing, that is how far is the corruption revealed in Mark Twain's short story *The Man that corrupted Hadleyburg*. Each literary work needed to be analyzed in detail

through the elements these is build for the sake of a better understanding and make the literature as a work of art quality for the audience.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research proposal used a descriptive qualitative research method to gain the data which occurs in the literary work, According to Williams (2007:70), the qualitative method allows the researcher to explore and better understand the social phenomenon in the novel. Therefore, based on this method, the researcher focused on describing explaining, and interpreting the collected data dealing with the social phenomenon which reflected by the author in the analysis. This proposal also uses an objective approach as a supportive approach to see the intrinsic aspects of literature which include unanimity of meaning, diction, rhyme, sentence structure, theme, plot, setting, characters, and so on. What is clear is that the assessment given is seen from the extent to which the strength or value of the literary work is based on the harmony of all its constituent elements. Because the benchmarks for the objective approach are clear, this approach is often called the structural approach. In carrying out the research, the writer used the qualitative research techniques. The research focused on the scientific side and based on the outline in the data. To collect the data and information the writer needs to support the topic.

The writer will collected the data and information through library research such as information from books and internet. After that the writer classified all the data and information into two kinds. First is primary data, which are the short story itself and history records around the topic. Second is secondary data, which are the articles in the internet about the short story or books that related to the topic of proposal.

To support the analysis, the writer read some books and journal articles that related with the topic, some dictionary to find the meaning of the difficult words either in the short story or in the resources and proposal that may help the writer to carry out the analysis.

The method of analyze data from this proposal is by applying objective approach. This approach is used to analyze the structure of short story such as the

characters, themes, plot, and setting. Then, the analysis continues by finding the relationship between the social condition of Hadleyburg in the short story with corruption and also the react from the community fiction in the short story. This approach had been described in the chapter two.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the story "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" by Mark Twain, corruption plays an important role in depicting human frailty and the deepest humanity. The story is about a small town known for its honesty. However, a strange man exposes the true nature of the townspeople by tempting them with an anonymous letter containing the temptation of money. It can be understood from the context of the story, that corruption can be defined as a change in the character and moral principles of a person who was originally considered honest and sincere, but can be swayed by material temptation (in line with Wijayanto, 2009). Most of the residents of Hadleyburg are persuaded by the promise of large prize money, which reveals that they are not always as honest and sincere as they claim to be. The corruption in this story reveals the human nature that is easily swayed by material temptations and the moral weaknesses hidden behind the image of goodness.

"The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" is a short story that depicts corruption from the point of view of people who are considered to be very honest and sincere. The story begins with Hadleyburg, a small town known for its moral principles and honesty. However, the town is faced with a major moral test when a strange man who feels he has been wronged by the residents of Hadleyburg, plots revenge by seducing them. In this story, corruption takes the form of changes in the character and morals of individuals and society collectively. Moreover, this story depicts corruption in various forms and levels, ranging from individual character changes to corruption that engulfs an entire community. The story also underlines how easily one can be seduced by material temptations and

how corruption can undermine an individual's values and morals. This story reflected on the complexity.

of corruption in society and the extent to which human actions can be swayed by opportunities and temptations that come along. Along with the story analysis, this study found four types of corruption, such as moral corruption, ethics corruption, justice corruption and social corruption.

Moral Corruption

In "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg," moral corruption is one of the central themes, where this story illustrates that corruption is not always limited to individuals, but can also involve entire communities. The corruption in "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" is a reflection of human frailty and the ability of temptation to change one's character and values. The story crafts a story that examines the fragility of human virtue and the possibility that even the most sincere people can be corrupted. Through vivid storytelling and thought-provoking characters, Twain offers a devastating critique of the moral decay permeating society. The story revolves around the fictional town of Hadleyburg, which is famous for its incorruptibility. However, this reputation is challenged when a stranger arrives and attempts to expose the town's hypocrisy. He devised an ingenious plan to corrupt the citizens of Hadleyburg by exploiting their vanity and greed. The initial description of the city of Hadleyburg at the beginning of the story is described as honourable with various nicknames and greetings, this can be seen in:

It was many years ago. Hadleyburg was the most honest and upright town in all the region round about. It had kept that reputation unsmirched during three generations, and was prouder of it than of any other of its possessions. It was so proud of it, and so anxious to insure its perpetuation, that it began to teach the principles of honest dealing to its babies in the cradle, and made the like teachings the staple of their culture thenceforward through all the years devoted to their education (Twain, 1899:1).

The story "The Man who Corrupted Hadleyburg" tells the story of a fictional town called Hadleyburg, which is famous for its high morality and integrity, and then the town is marred by an event about how moral corruption can ruin the image.

of the town, the people, and the characters in it. Referring to the quote above, it is explained that in this story, Hadleyburg is considered a very honest town and has never experienced fraud or forgery in its history. All the townspeople take pride in their long-lasting moral reputation. However, the story begins with the arrival of a mysterious stranger who feels unfairly treated by some of Hadleyburg's residents who feel they have been abused by him. The stranger decides to take revenge on the town by sending a letter to the nineteen townspeople he considers the most sinful, it can be seen in:

My errand is now completed, and I go pleased and a little proud, and you will never see me again. There is a paper attached to the sack which will explain everything. Good-night, madam. The letter contained instructions on how they could become more honest in their lives and gave a large reward to the recipient who proved that they had changed (Twain, 1899:3).

The letter contained instructions on how they could become more honest in their lives and gave a large reward to the recipient of the letter who proved that they had changed. However, the result of the letter was moral chaos in Hadleyburg. Some townspeople went to great lengths to win the large prize promised in the letter, and they resorted to various acts of cunning and deceit to achieve it. The community that was once known as a model of morality and integrity was transformed into a corrupt, deceitful, and dishonest community.

Moral corruption in this story is illustrated through the characters of the Hadleyburg residents who begin to be seduced by the promise of a large prize money from an anonymous letter written by the stranger. Although initially perceived as honest and sincere, these townspeople become infatuated by the opportunity to win money, even if it involves fraudulent and immoral actions. This reveals how easily one can be seduced by material temptation and the extent to which corruption can change an individual's characters, and one of them is Mr. Richards:

He skimmed through it and said: Isn't it an adventure ! Why, it's a romance ; it's like the impossible things one reads about in books, and never sees in life.' He was well stirred up now ; cheerful, even gleeful.

He tapped his old wife on the cheek, and said humorously, 'Why, we're rich, Mary, rich j all we've got to do is to bury the money and burn the papers (Twain, 1899:5).

The story illustrates how strong moral values can be easily influenced by temptation and greed. In this story, we see how human characteristics underlie the moral corruption in the society. In this story, moral corruption first appears through the character of Mr Richards, who feels that he has been the victim of an injustice and wants revenge on Hadleyburg. When he finds a letter promising a large reward for anyone who can prove his honesty, he immediately feels tempted to manipulate the situation. Twain shows that moral corruption can start from one's sense of dissatisfaction with justice and the urge to fulfil it. The quote above illustrates Richards' moral motivation, which initially appears strong but is eventually corrupted by the great opportunity presented to him.

Another moral corruption is also very evident in the character of Mr Richards, where in order to get money and gold from the stranger, Mr Richards lies to his wife about the contents of the letter left by the stranger. Mr Richard and his wife who were thinking about the letter, money and gold one night were shocked by Stephenson's statement that Richard was the one who had helped the stranger who left them the money and gold. This is clearly seen in:

Oh, Edward, how lucky it was you did him that grand service, poor Goodson! I never liked him, but I love him now. And it was fine and beautiful of you never to mention it or brag about it.' Then, with a touch of reproach, But you ought to have told me^ Edward, you ought to have told your wife, you know.' Well, I—er—well, Mary, you see (Twain, 1899:20).

In order to get money and gold, Mr Edward Richard is willing to do anything including lying and claiming something he didn't do before. Edward Richards is a character who begins to show his moral corruption when he finds money left in his house. He initially talks about returning the money sincerely, but the temptation of corruption sets in.

Furthermore, moral corruption also appears through the character of Reverend Burgess. Despite being a spiritual leader of the community, he is involved

in a conspiracy to alter the results of the honesty test and ensure the prize goes to Mr Richards. This shows how people who are supposed to be moral role models in society can also fall into the temptation of corruption. A relevant quote from Reverend Burgess can be found in statement where he says, *"I think we should try our best. Of course, only if we succeed, but we should try our best"* (Twain, 1899:11). This quote shows how he morally blurs the line between good and evil to justify his actions.

Another form of moral corruption that appears in this story is the loss of honesty. The people of Hadleyburg were considered to be very honest and never wanted possessions that did not belong to them. However, when the test comes, their honesty is put to the test. For example, when the wicked man bullies the town by distributing envelopes containing money to several residents, only one family refuses to accept the envelope. In an excerpt from the story, Twain wrote, *"There was one family that did not accept the envelope. They thought it was a test and they didn't want to be tempted with money that wasn't theirs"* (Twain, 1899: 47). This action shows the importance of honesty in maintaining moral ethics in society. Despite the temptation, the family was not tempted by the lure of money that did not belong to them. Moral corruption in this story spreads throughout the town, exposing the collective dishonesty and dishonesty hidden behind the image of goodness. The entire Hadleyburg community, including its moral leaders, are complicit to varying degrees in the quest to win the prize money. They commit fraudulent acts, deception, and betrayal of ethics for the sake of money, revealing that corruption is not limited to individuals, but can also poison an entire society.

Besides honesty, loyalty is also an important form of moral ethics in this story. When the people of Hadleyburg learned that one family refused to accept the envelope of money, they rallied to support the family's decision. They do not judge or demean the family, but instead provide support and respect for their decision. Twain describes this moment in the story quote, *"The people of Hadleyburg*

realized how important loyalty to their ethical values was. They stood together in support of the family who refused to accept the envelope of money" (Twain, 1899:45). This loyalty shows that ethical morals are not only applied individually, but also appreciated and supported by the community. Through the above quotations, we can see how corruption has corrupted Hadleyburg. The townspeople who were once respected and honoured as moral exemplars are now despised and despised by the outside world. They realise that most of them are not people of honesty and integrity, but those who have been involved in corrupt acts. This story clearly illustrates how corruption can destroy the image and morality of a society that was once regarded as honest and upright.

Ethics Corruption

The story "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg" is a short story written by the famous author, Mark Twain. This story illustrates how ethics corruption can affect society, especially when people are considered incorruptible. The story provides a deep insight into how a person's values and integrity can be corrupted by the lure of money and power. Ethical corruption in a literary perspective refers to the representation and exploration of moral depravity, loss of values, or ethical violations in literary works (Widowati, 2005). It is a common theme in many literary stories where the author portrays the moral conflicts faced by the characters or society in the story. Ethical corruption in literature is often used as a tool to describe the human condition, internal conflicts, or instability in society (Widowati, 2005). In literature, ethical corruption can be expressed through characters who initially have strong moral values, but then fall into actions that violate ethics. These can be acts of deception, cheating, crime, or other immoral acts. Most literary stories depict character changes that occur as the plot progresses, where characters face temptations or external pressures that shake their ethical principles.

In addition, ethical corruption can also be depicted on a broader scale in the society or community in the story. For example, claimed by Wijayanto, (2009) a literary work may depict a society that originally had strong ethical principles,

but later experienced rampant ethical corruption due to external factors such as political corruption, social injustice, or collective greed. In literature, ethical corruption is often used to depict themes such as change, fall, loss of values, moral dilemmas, and the negative impact of immoral actions (Wijayanto, 2009). Literary authors often use ethical corruption as a tool to illustrate characters' internal conflicts or to create tension in the plot.

In a strong series of literary stories, ethical corruption can be a powerful element to illustrate the complexities of humans and society. It can also be a way to trigger reflection in the reader about the importance of maintaining ethical values and morality in everyday life. In the short story "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg" by Mark Twain, where the story describes ethical corruption and its impact on society. The story illustrates how a society that is initially thought to be honest and of integrity can easily fall into ethical corruption when faced with temptation. In this discussion, the author explored how the story portrayed ethical corruption in the story and its impact on the people of Hadleyburg.

The couple lay awake the most of the night, Mary happy and busy, Edward busy, but not so happy. Mary was planning what she would do with the money. Edward was trying to recall that service. At first his conscience was sore on account of the lie he had told Mary—if it was a lie. After much reflection—suppose it was a lie? What then? Was it such a great matter? Aren't we always acting lies? (Twain, 1899:21).

The quotation portrays ethical corruption through the main characters, Mr and Mrs Richards. At the beginning of the story, they are regarded as examples of integrity and honesty in Hadleyburg. However, when they receive a message describing the receipt of gift money from a stranger who is believed to be an imposter, the honest ethics and good morals previously portrayed of them are shaken. They begin to plot ways to capitalise on the money, which reveals human vulnerability to material temptation. Mr Richards initially struggles with his inner conflict, struggling to recall what good deeds he had done to this stranger that entitled him to the money, but ultimately decides to make use of the money with dishonest and fabricated claims. This is a clear example of how individuals who

initially adhere to ethical principles can be swayed by greed and the drive for personal gain.

In addition, in this story, another visible moral corruption is when the initially honest and never lying residents of Hadleyburg become tempted to find out who committed crimes in the past. They begin to suspect each other, lie, and commit various unethical acts in an attempt to protect themselves. One piece of quotable evidence illustrating this ethical corruption occurs when one of Hadleyburg's residents, Mrs. Richards, is talking to her husband about the letter they received. She said, *"But, Edward, think what we could do with that money! Think how easy it would be to pay off our debts and live in luxury for the rest of our lives!"* (Twain, 1899: 13). This quote shows how the wealth offered by the wicked man has tempted Mrs. Richards to forget her values of honesty. She started thinking of the personal benefits she could get from this situation, without paying attention to the repercussions it might have on the people of Hadleyburg.

In addition, in the story "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg", several forms of ethical corruption are also revealed. Through the characters and the events that occur, the story illustrates how ethical corruption can corrupt a society that is considered holy and ethical. One form of ethical corruption seen in this story is the dishonesty and loss of integrity in some of the main characters. For example, a Hadleyburg resident named Edward Richards attempts to steal prize money that was meant for someone else. This shows how greed and the desire for personal gain can corrupt a person's integrity, can be seen in: *"Edward Richards, the man who never sinned in his life, has now stepped into the abyss of evil."* (Twain, 1899:50). This quote contains a statement that emphasizes the ethical corruption of Richard's character who was originally filled with honesty. The corruption of ethics is unavoidable for Richard's character, which happens due to the influence of a lot of money and gold and makes him forget the identity and ethics that previously characterized them.

This story also portrays ethical corruption through the acts of vengeance and cruelty committed by the citizens of Hadleyburg after they find out who

actually stole the reward money. They use the information to harm the person they think is responsible, without considering the truth or the consequences of their actions. It can be seen in notes: *"Hadleyburg enjoyed the punishment well. They thought it a fair way to take revenge for what they had received"* (Twain, 1899: 49). The ethics of the townspeople, who were portrayed as honest, good and ethical, were lost and destroyed by money and gold. Lie after lie they told to get the prize, but when everything was revealed, one by one they began to express their resentment towards others, this led to the destruction of the ethics and honesty of the iconic town of Hadleyburg. It can be understood that ethics corruption can change a person's/people values and moral principles. The Hadleyburgers, who were previously so convinced of their own integrity, gradually tore down their own ethics principles in favour of money. They became corrupt and lost their true identity as honest and sincere citizens. Moreover, corruption in this story also serves as a critique of hypocrisy and dishonesty in a society that often hides evil behind a solid moral image. This story to reveal how a person's public image can often mask their true dark side. Meanwhile, in the story the ethics question of whether the stranger's act of deliberately seducing the people of Hadleyburg to expose their dishonesty is also a form of corruption. This brings up the debate on whether revenge and exposing the crimes of others can be justified.

In addition, the story also depicts the injustice of an ethical society. Although an honest citizen of Hadleyburg attempted to reveal the truth, and the honest citizen was unsuccessful due to the corrupt system and self-interest taking precedence. This shows how ethical corruption can affect integrity and justice in a society. It is quoted that: *"He knew that it would be futile to try to prove the truth-that the system probably protected the swindlers better than they protected the honest"* (Twain, 1899: 51). The conspiracy between people in the city to get money as a reward was unavoidable. The decay and decay of the ethics of the people of Hadleyburg were exacerbated by their conspiring with one another to cover up for the cheaters in order to make a profit. It is actually different from the image of

the town etichs at the beginning, where *"Hadleyburg is a town known for the integrity and high morality of its residents. The people of Hadleyburg see themselves as*

moral role models to the outside world” (Twain, 1899:2). However, when a stranger insults Hadleyburg and denounces its residents as dishonest, a deep sense of hurt tugs at the hearts of the townspeople. Someone from the town proposes that they take revenge by sneaking money to the stranger as proof that Hadleyburg is an honest town. Instead, this plan turns into a conspiracy to steal the money, and this is the beginning of the corruption that corrupts the town.

Justice Corruption

Chayes, (2021) confirmed that literary works depict corruption of justice as a social and moral phenomenon that is often raised in literary works to depict injustice, abuse of power, and corrupt civilisation. Moreover, Knights (2021) mentioned that in literature, the corruption of justice can take many forms, from bribery of judges, to the buying of legal decisions, to the disregard of individual rights leading to human rights violations. It could be understood that in literary works, corruption of justice is often depicted as the main conflict that influences characters and storylines. Corruption of justice in literature can serve as a mirror for society and government (Robert, 2001). Literature provides a platform to explore the moral and social impact of acts of corruption in the context of the justice system. Literary works often illustrate how corruption of justice undermines the integrity of legal institutions, erodes public trust, and benefits powerful groups. It also reflects on how justice is supposed to function and how such injustice undermines social order.

In literature, corruption of justice is also often depicted as an inner conflict that affects the main character (Chayes, 2021). Characters in stories often struggle to understand their own moral values, ethics, and integrity when faced with situations involving corruption of justice. In Mark Twain's *The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg*, the corruption of justice is portrayed as the core of a deep moral conflict involving the entire fictional town of Hadleyburg. The story portrays the town as a community that stands firmly on integrity and honesty. However, when a citizen of

Hadleyburg attempts to seek revenge for mistreatment he has experienced, he reveals the vulnerability of the justice system and the social integrity it has upheld.

The narrative begins with a stranger arriving in Hadleyburg, claiming to have been wronged by a citizen of the town. Seeking revenge, the stranger devises a plan to expose the town's moral hypocrisy by tempting its residents with a substantial reward. He sends a sealed envelope to the town's most trusted individuals, containing a note that identifies the culprit responsible for his alleged mistreatment. The person mentioned in the letter will receive a large sum of money. However, suddenly the whole atmosphere in the story changes when the news about the money booms, all the townspeople are in the mood to get the money:

"What would happen if a town that prides itself on its honesty was suddenly faced with an irresistible temptation? Would they stay true to their moral values, or would they fall into the trap of sin?" (" (Twain, 1899:29).

The news of the stranger's scheme spreads like wildfire, causing a frenzy among the townspeople. The prospect of easy money entices them, and they eagerly await the revelation of the culprit's identity. However, the stranger's plan is not as straightforward as it seems. He knows that corruption lies dormant within Hadleyburg, waiting to be awakened. News of the money box spread quickly in Hadleyburg and people started vying to find the box. They hoped that by finding the money box, they would prove that they were honest and not corrupt. The story "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg," gives a powerful message about the dangers of corruption in society. It reminds us through the story that no one is immune to the temptations of money and power, and that even the most honest and sincere people can fall into corrupt actions. Through the story, it shows that corruption is not only destructive to individuals, but can also damage the image and morality of an entire society. This story serves as a warning to all of us about the importance of maintaining integrity and morality in our daily lives, and the importance of not allowing the temptations of money and power to destroy our strongly held values.

As the story progresses, the townspeople's greed becomes more evident. They begin to doubt their own moral righteousness and secretly suspect their neighbors. The thought of such a large reward clouds their judgment and exposes their true nature. Twain aptly captures the essence of their transformation in the following quote:

"In this snug retreat, after his dinner, he smoked his cigar through, and read the evening paper; he had read it through by this time, for he was a slow reader, and now he laid it down and sat thinking—thinking of his wife, who lay upstairs, dying slowly and steadily away. A deep sadness rested upon him, and when he heard a footstep approaching, he looked up eagerly, hoping that it might be news of her condition; but it was the stranger who entered" (Twain, 1899:31).

This quote exemplifies how the pursuit of personal gain can blind individuals to the suffering of others. The protagonist, Mr. Richards, is preoccupied with his own desires and fails to prioritize the well-being of his dying wife. The stranger's presence only serves to distract him further, leading him down a path of moral decay. As the story unfolds, the corruption within Hadleyburg becomes more apparent. Friends turn against each other, and once-trusted relationships crumble under the weight of suspicion. Even those who were initially portrayed as pillars of virtue succumb to the allure of the reward. Twain emphasizes this downfall in the following quote:

"Everywhere in the town, groups of citizens stood together, discoursing in whispers, and every face had in it an expression of anxiety and expectancy. Everywhere, the furtive glance of conscience was being exchanged, and everywhere the question was being asked: 'What has she done?'" (Twain, 1899:49).

This quote encapsulates the atmosphere of fear and doubt that pervades Hadleyburg. The quotation explained actions of a townspeople who tries to steal money that was supposed to be given to a stranger who had denounced Hadleyburg. This man decided to share his plan with some other townspeople. They form a group that has the same goal, which is to steal the money and share the proceeds. In this moment, we can see how corruption can spread and corrupt a society that was once

known for its morality and integrity. The townspeople are consumed by their guilt and paranoia, desperate to avoid being exposed as the culprit. Their collective conscience is plagued by the consequences of their actions, revealing the true extent of corruption that exists beneath the town's façade of righteousness.

Social Corruption

Literature is a powerful medium for depicting social corruption in society. As mentioned by Robert (2001), in literary works, authors often use stories, characters, and conflicts to detail various aspects of social corruption that exist in everyday life. Moreover, in literature authors often present characters that reflect various aspects of social corruption, such as corrupt officials, unethical businessmen, or individuals who take shortcuts to achieve their goals (Chayes, 2021). These characters are used as a reflection of real society, and through their portrayal, readers can see the devastating effects of social corruption on individuals and communities. This allows the author to depict diverse situations that may occur in everyday life, such as abuse of power, bribery, or injustice in the legal system.

"The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg" by Mark Twain is a story that is set in the small, seemingly virtuous town of Hadleyburg, where the residents take great pride in their reputation for honesty and integrity. However, when a stranger arrives and accuses the town of being corrupt at its core, the true nature of the townspeople is put to the test. Through a series of events, it is revealed that the town's moral fiber is not as unblemished as it appears. The story exposes how social corruption can manifest in the form of hypocrisy, greed, and the temptation to compromise one's principles for personal gain. Twain uses the characters and their actions to highlight the fragility of moral values in the face of temptation and the ease with which individuals can be swayed from their ethical beliefs.

The story portrayal of Hadleyburg serves as a cautionary tale, illustrating how social corruption can thrive in an environment where appearances are prioritized

over genuine virtue. The story prompts readers to reflect on the nature of integrity and the potential for corruption to infiltrate even the most seemingly upright societies, shedding light on the complexities of human nature and the inherent susceptibility to moral compromise. In addition, this story depicts social corruption through the themes of moral thinking, integrity, and human error. Hadleyburg is a town known for its honesty, but the story reveals how easily its residents fall into social corruption:

I will explain. I was a gambler. I say I was. / was a ruined, gambler. I arrived in this village at night hungry and without a penny. I asked for help—in the dark ; I was ashamed to beg in the light. I begged of the right man. He gave me twenty dollars—that is to say he gave me life^ as I considered it. He also gave me fortune ; for out of that money I have made myself rich at the gaming-table (Twain, 1899: 3).

In the quote above, it describes a mysterious stranger revealing a human flaw in Hadleyburg's honour and reward system. The stranger writes letters to several key figures in the town and tells them about a man who once gave him food when he was in town. In return, the stranger pointed out the man as the only honest individual in Hadleyburg, and he left a large legacy to him in his will. In the ensuing series of events, the protagonists vie to claim this inheritance by showing that they are the honest men mentioned in the foreign letter. Moral conflicts and social corruption emerge in the town as the residents compete for the inheritance without thinking about their integrity. They lie, cheat, and put down their friends for personal gain.

As the townspeople become consumed by the desire for retribution and the promise of a substantial reward, their social moral compasses begin to waver. The allure of wealth and the opportunity to settle old scores lead to a chain of deceit and betrayal, ultimately exposing the underlying corruption within the community. One of the strongest pieces of evidence of social corruption in the story is the main character, Mr. Richards. Initially, Mr. Richards is considered one of Hadleyburg's

most honest and upstanding citizens. However, when he finds a letter containing a secret about who made a large donation to the town, he is tempted to take advantage of it personally. Twain's view on social corruption can be seen in the following quote:

"Mr. Richards kept the letter and felt within himself a temptation he had never felt before. He felt a strong desire to use the information for his own benefit, even if it meant betraying the ethical principles to which he had been committed" (Twain, 1899: 8).

This quote shows how someone who was originally honest and honorable can be tempted to commit an act of corruption just because the opportunity arises. Twain clearly illustrates how strong the urge to utilize personal gain is in the face of the temptation of corruption.

In addition, the story also depicts society's response to social corruption. When Mr. Richards tried to make use of the information, he faced various reactions from the citizens of Hadleyburg. Some people try to find out the identity of the donor, while others ignore or blame Mr. Richards. Twain portrays social corruption as a problem that involves the entire society, and cannot be seen from just one perspective. An example of a quote that illustrates society's response to social corruption can be found in a conversation between Mr. Richards and a Hadleyburg resident:

"What are you going to do with that information, Mr. Richards? Are you going to use it for your own benefit? Or are you going to tell everyone so we can find an honest man and make a big contribution to our town?" (Twain, 1899: 15).

This conversation highlights the different attitudes that exist in society towards social corruption. Some want to expose the truth and correct injustice, while others are more concerned with their own interests. In the above quote, Mark Twain wants to illustrate that no society is truly pure and free from social corruption. Even people who are considered the most honest and have integrity can be swayed by the

temptations of wealth and power. Corruption is a social phenomenon that troubles many people around the world. In literary works, the concept and theory of corruption can be explained through representation, social reflection, symbolism, and social criticism. "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg" delves into the corrosive nature of moral corruption, ethics corruption, justice corruption, and social corruption, painting a vivid picture of how a seemingly upright community can be undone by the allure of dishonesty. Twain's narrative emphasizes the fragility of moral principles when faced with the opportunity for personal gain or revenge. The story illustrates how the erosion of individual integrity can lead to a domino effect, corrupting not only personal values but also the ethical and social fabric of an entire town.

Furthermore, the novella serves as a critique of the justice system, revealing its susceptibility to manipulation and distortion. As the plot unfolds, the justice corruption in Hadleyburg becomes apparent, highlighting the ease with which truth can be subverted for personal interests. Twain's portrayal of a justice system compromised by biases and personal vendettas prompts reflection on the need for transparency, accountability, and the safeguarding of justice against external influences.

To sum up, "The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg" serves as a cautionary tale about the interconnectedness of moral, ethical, and social values. It underscores the importance of cultivating a steadfast commitment to integrity and justice within individuals and communities to prevent the insidious spread of corruption. Twain's exploration of these themes encourages readers to scrutinize their own moral compass and advocate for a society that upholds ethical standards, ensuring that the foundations of justice and morality remain resilient against the corrosive forces of corruption.

A fruitful avenue for further research on the themes of moral corruption, ethics corruption, justice corruption, and social corruption in "The Man Who

Corrupted Hadleyburg" could involve a comparative analysis with contemporary societal dynamics. Investigating how the depicted corrosive influences manifest in modern settings, exploring real-world instances of moral and ethical lapses, compromised justice systems, and social decay would provide insights into the enduring relevance of Mark Twain's narrative. Researchers could employ a multidisciplinary approach, drawing on literature, sociology, psychology, and legal studies to analyze the complexities of corruption and its impact on communities. Additionally, exploring potential preventative measures and interventions that align with the lessons learned from Hadleyburg could contribute to a deeper understanding of how societies can fortify themselves against the pervasive threat of corruption. This research could yield valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and community leaders striving to address and mitigate the challenges posed by moral, ethical, justice, and social corruption in the contemporary world.

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