

## **SACRIFICE AS DESCRIBED IN OSCAR WILD'S THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE ROSE**

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**Abstract** : This study was conducted to describe sacrifice and explain its actions and values of sacrifice in Oscar Wild's *The Nightingale and the Rose*. This study was focused only to analyze sacrifice in Oscar Wild's *The Nightingale and the Rose*. More specifically, the focus will be on the sacrifice done by *The Nightingale*. This research used qualitative research design because the data are in the form of quotation or description. In carrying out this research, the data were collected from the short story written by Oscar Wild entitled *The Nightingale and the Rose* as primary source and also supported by other relevant references such as books, documents and web sources about sacrifice which considered as secondary source. In analyzing the data collected, the researcher applied objective approach and describe the sacrifice and its actions and values in the short story. The findings demonstrate that giving attention, showing affection, and self-sacrifice are actions of sacrifice, whereas unconditional love and risk-taking are values of sacrifice.

**Keywords:** *Oscar Wilde, Short Story, Sacrifice, Actions and Values of sacrifice.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Love is inseparable from life. It is the way to happiness. In fact, life is never without barriers or challenge (Sigar & Rorintulus, 2020). Love does not need to be perfect but it needs to be truly expressed. True love exists when problems or challenge are overcome. However, it is uneasy to give freely all that people have to show true love. There must be a willing to sacrifice. The action of sacrifice is hard to commit.

The description of life in literature develops as time goes by in the short story *The Nightingale and The Rose*. Nightingale pictures about kindness, virtue, and the power of sacrifice (Moonik, Mogeia & Sabudu, 2020). The nightingale responded when being called. She knew about those three things because she sacrifices her life for her belief in true love. The rose symbolizes nightingale's true love. This makes the work interesting since it contains another creature as symbolized by the author.

Life is a struggle and often needs sacrifice that must always be done by every creature to stay alive. The sacrifice itself can be in the form of material (which can be seen, held) and immaterial (can only be felt). Sacrifices are made sincerely and noble goals will surely yield extraordinary results. (Hubert, Henri and Mauss 1964) Efforts done by human in life are always equal to their achievements. Great achievements come from great efforts. Sacrifice drives a person to deal with the problem and overcome it. Through sacrifice, someone is ready to give more efforts on something that he or she is willing to achieve. It means that people need to realize that sacrificing gives huge impacts for someone or many people. Choosing to do sacrifice is an evidence of commitment and readiness to take risks.

There is no human without problem. Whoever someone is, he or she has ever faced it. Problems are not to be avoided but to be overcome. The problems eventually shows that there is real strength in someone's life. If an individual attempts to avoid problem, it then shows his or her life is static.

The existence of sacrifice is not only on real world but can also be found in imaginary contents such as literature. Literature is the knowledge which is earned by human beings arise conduct and it is used to reflect and express experience (Nanlohy, Rorintulus & Kamagi, 2021). Another opinion said that literature is one of the great creative and universal means of communicating the emotional, spiritual, or intellectual concerns of mankind. (The Encyclopedia of Americana, vol. 22:559) *The Nightingale and The Rose* is one of the literature by Oscar Wilde In 1888. *The Nightingale and The Rose* is popular literature in the Victorian period ( 1837 - 1901

). In the literature from Victorian period, literary works tend to present portraits of life, hard work, and love.

"Oscar Wilde was one of the leading writers and literature in England. Wilde, author of aesthetic advocates and social critics. In his writings, Wilde is a celebration of aesthetic and criticism of Victorian morality. His writings also dealt with a wide range of topics ranging from arts philosophy, socialism, theology, individualism, and high social criticism". As in his literature, *The Nightingale and The Rose*.

"The *Nightingale and The Rose* can be understood as an allegory of wilde's idea of aesthetics, an artistic movement that fights for "art for art." The movement's philosophy was that art was its own origination, and wilde was famous to say that there is no such thing as a moral or immoral book". In *The Nightingale and The Rose*, nightingale represented the aesthetic model, one who was willing to sacrifice everything even his own life in the name of his art, not expecting to reap. Anything in return for himself.

In the short story *The Nightingale and The Rose*, the nightingale depicts kindness, virtue, and the power of sacrifice. The nightingale understood the student's feelings. She knows about the three things because she sacrificed her life for her belief in true love. The rose symbolizes the nightingale's true love.

One of the interesting topics to discuss is sacrifice. Based on the above reasons, the authors conducted research on sacrifice in *The Nightingale and the Rose*.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### ***Research Design***

Method refers to operational ways in conducting a research. (Rorintulus 2018, 141) This study the writer applied qualitative research. "Qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The written result of the research contains quotations from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation". (Bogdan and Biklen 30) Based on the quotation, It means descriptive related to qualitative research because the data are

presented in the form of quotation or description instead of number. It also supported that in descriptive research the data are only in the form of words as well as quotation which is taken from the sources. (Sabudu 2020, 27) This research to analyze this short story the writer collect all the data in the from of words, quotation, definition and statements that support this research.

### ***Data Collection***

Data collection can be done in various settings, various sources, and various ways. Then the data collection can use primary source and Secondary Source. Primary Source is the source of data as in the short story entitled *The Nightingale and the Rose* written by Oscar Wilde. The secondary source is a source that does not directly provide data to data collectors, for example through others or through documents and internet browsing, (Sugiyono, 2018).

### ***Data Analysis***

In analyzing the short story, the writer applied objective approach by considering internal characteristics in the short story. It means that the writer sees interrelatedness among the internal elements of the short story and without any consideration to external part.

“The objective orientation which in principle regards the works of arts in isolation from all external point of references and analysis it, as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its part in their internal relations, and set out to judge its solely by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being”. (Abrams 1979)

This means that the analysis mainly relies upon the interpretation of the data obtained from the short story only. In this case, the writer sees the relation of the internal element of the short story. The steps in applying objective approach as following:

1. Reading the short story repeatedly to gain understanding.
2. Understanding the sacrifice as portrayed in the story.
3. Determining the character of sacrifice in the story.

4. Describing the actions and impact of sacrifice.

Drawing conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION (tahoma, 12pt, bold, left-justify)**

In the book *The Nightingale and the Rose* tells the story of the sacrifice of a bird to human. sacrifice is a rare phenomenon and an impossible act. An event whose characteristics are synonymous with a storyline that has an extraordinary and tragic story.

In the short story *The Nightingale* is deeply moved by the student's plight and wishes to help him out. She flies all over seeking a red rose, but like the student, has difficulties. When she finally finds a red rose tree, it is damaged by the cold weather. This rose tree tells her the only way to grow a new red rose is for the Nightingale to sacrifice herself. She must pierce herself on one of the rose's thorns so that her blood can flow into the plant and color the rose red. "All night long she sang with her breast against the thorn she kept on singing, the thorn went deeper and deeper into her breast, until the rose sucked all her blood." (7) Sacrificing is gift based on moral conscious which is honest and sincere. Give sacrificing without reply, without agreement, without transaction any time

Based on the above definition, the writer assumes that there is an action so that she makes a sacrifice and the value that we can know from the act of sacrifice performed by the nightingale. So, in this chapter, the writer is interested to analyze about the Action of Sacrifice and the values of sacrifice.

Actions of Sacrifice

#### ***Giving Attention***

"Attention is one of the most profound mysteries of the brain". (Wright 1998, 1) "Attention is an activity that a person does in a relationship with the selection of stimuli that come from the environment". (Slameto 2010, 105) Based on two definitions above, the writer assumes that genuine attention will usually be accompanied by sacrifice.

Attention is not enough only to be spoken through the mouth. But it also has to be based on real action. So, this story as a form of attention to student, nightingale helps student look for a rose. "Suddenly she spread her brown wings for flight, and soared into the air. She passed through the grove like a shadow, and like a shadow she sailed across the garden".(5)

The Nightingale flies around the garden to find a red rose and ask every flower she met in the garden. Here, we can see doing the act of sacrifice is not so easy. There is more effort to do things that are not usually done, there are risks taken, the need to recognize that sacrifices exist.

### ***Showing Affection***

Affection is a feeling, but this affection is different from love. Affection is more in the form of caring for a human being without wanting to ask for something in return for what he has done for his loved one. In the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13:4; "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up".

Based on the definition above, we can say that affection is not just a relationship of love or romance for both men and women, but is universal. It can happen between friends, relatives, family, even between humans and animals.

Affection is always sincere and more. giving rather than receiving. Focus more on the person he loves than himself, as the nightingale did to student."The Nightingale Understood the secret of the student's sorrow, and she satsilent in the oak-tree, and thought about the mystery of love".(5)

The Nightingale, a romantic and creative creature who loves to sing, is deeply moved by the student's plight and wishes to help him out. She flies all over seeking a red rose. In the quotation from the story:

"Give me a red rose, she cried, and I will sing you my sweetest song. But the Tree shook its head. My roses are white, it answered; "as white as the foam of the sea, and whiter than the snow upon the mountain. But go to my brother who grows

round the old sun-dial, and perhaps he will give you what you want. So, the Nightingale flew over to the Rose-tree that was growing round the old sun-dial". (6-7)

Based on the quotations above, we can see that the nightingale has affection, her concern for the student who is not asking for anything that has been done. The writer assumes that when sacrifice wants to be done, it means there should be understood about how mature love is, where the sacrifice are no longer the center of everything, but the happiness of others is the final goal. It could say that when it is willing to subordinate ourselves to the happiness of others, so it is not easy.

### ***Self-Sacrifice***

Sacrifice means giving up something valuable (wealth, energy, thoughts, time, even life from us to be given to others we love sincerely for their happiness. Sacrifice is synonymous with love, in true love there must be sacrifice, it can be a small sacrifice to a large sacrifice in the form of life. You could say that sacrifice is a consequence of love itself.

Based on the definition above, that Self-sacrifice is an act of willingness and sincerity without any coercion or demands from someone. "I will build it out of music by moonlight, and stain it with my own heart's blood".(7) We can see that for the sake of the student's happiness, the nightingale sacrifices his life to get a red rose. Sacrifice is one of many things that is the measure of love. Sometimes when love is spoken the logic cannot function.

It can no longer be thought of with common sense. They consider actions that people consider illogical to be actions that they think are right, even unmitigated, their lives are often at stake. Giving life to others requires a commitment to self-sacrifice. The greatest and best gift is to give with love, and the greatest love is a person who gives his life to others a sacrifice of himself for others. Sacrifice is an action that goes beyond our must, an action that is not obligatory for us, an action

that no one can be required to do. However, people are willing and sincere to do something for others.

### ***The Values of Sacrifice***

There are two values depicted from the sacrifice in the short story. Those values are unconditional love and taking risk.

### ***Unconditional Love***

“Unconditional love is known as affection without any limitations, condition where the happiness of others matters more than Your happiness”. Based on the definition above, it shows that unconditional love is shown in a story where a person does not care about the deprived conditions that have existed in his life.

This love shows emotional closeness and puts others above their own interests. This can make love stronger and unconditional love can reduce the burden and show the totality of love. “All that I ask of you in return is that you will be a true lover, for love is wiser than philosophy, though she is wise, and mightier than power, though he is mighty”. (7)

It can be inferred from the quotation that being a lover is actually hard to understand but harder to act. Eventually, the wisdom of love is shown throughout the story by sacrificing. When loving, there is a need within yourself to convey a sense of love and make the loved one happy. Every effort made is a gift. Giving to beloved ones and proving ourselves. Love as portrayed in the short story is quite vulnerable.

Unconditional love is connected with giving everything another wants or accepting him or her as they are, even to the point of sacrificing their own needs and desires.” Be happy,” cried the Nightingale, “be happy; you shall have your red rose. I will build it out of music by moonlight, and stain it with my own heart’s-blood”. (7)

It is clear that the most precious thing in life is given to give another’s happiness. Sacrifice is an effort to avoid loss of love or feelings of discomfort which



sometimes will undermine one's own worth. This is done with the fear of losing something that is being worked on. We also take on the extra burden of trying to control how others should feel and feel about themselves.

### ***Risk-taking***

Risk taking is any consciously or non-consciously controlled behavior with a perceived uncertainty about its outcome. (Trimpop 1994, 2) Based on the definition above, risk taking is the decision that leads to uncertainly result. Whatever is sacrificed, sacrifice is a mental process. We not only let go of something we like or do something we don't like, but also allow our souls to process with the dynamics of taste created from that process. Sacrificing means accepting risk for what is done, as the story of the bird shows.

"I am not afraid." "If you want a red rose," said the Tree, "you must build it out of music by moonlight, and stain it with your own heart's-blood. You must sing to me with your breast against a thorn. All night long you must sing to me, and the thorn must pierce your heart, and your life-blood must flow into my veins, and become mine". (8)

Based on the quotation above, we can see that something hard to grasp logically that in the meaning of love and sacrifice can completely change the impact that sacrifice itself has on our souls. For this reason, loving requires full awareness so that it is easier for us to interpret each process as well as possible. Giving own life blood is totally risk and it is the final and hardest evidence of sacrifice.

In the end, it can be realized that, like giving, making sacrifices can be an expression of love that has a positive impact on the perpetrator. However, it is necessary to be careful with the underlying motives, so that the risks are appropriate. A person needs to ask himself what really makes him want to do it, so that the risks that arise are ready to be faced.

"And when the Moon shone in the heavens the Nightingale flew to the Rose tree, and set her breast against the thorn. All night long she sang with her breast

against the thorn, and the cold, crystal Moon leaned down and listened. All night long she sang, and the thorn went deeper and deeper into her breast, and her lifeblood ebbed away from her". (8)

Based on the quotation above, we can see that finally life is sacrificed. It is important for someone to make a sacrifice to have control and to know the response to be received. Sacrifice is made out of commitment to the love that is felt.

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