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Bakalářská práce

Smlouvání s Dáblem: Motiv v irské
literatuře
Bargaining with the Devil: A Motif in
Irish Literature

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České Budějovice 2014

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Poděkování

Rád bych poděkoval panu PhDr. Christopheru Koyovi, M.A., Ph.D. za hodnotné rady, názory a komentáře při zpracovávání této bakalářské práce. Dále děkuji své rodině za jejich neustávající podporu při studiu; děkuji tedy svému otci MUDr. Janu Kolářovi a své matce PhDr. Heleně Kolářové.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to PhDr. Christopher Koy, M.A., for his valuable comments, advice and opinions on this bachelor thesis. Further my thanks belong to my family for their unflagging support during my studies; I namely thank to my father MUDr. Jan Kolar and to my mother PhDr. Helena Kolar.

Abstract

This bachelor thesis undertakes an analysis of the bargain with the devil as a motif in the Irish literature. The analysis contains four literature works of Irish writers. One of them is a novel called *The Picture of Dorian Gray* written by Oscar Wilde. The other three works are short stories. "The Miraculous revenge" was written by George Bernard Shaw. "Sir Dominick's Bargain" was written by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu and the third work was written by Flann O'Brien called "Faustus Kelly". All these works will be analyzed, summarized, compared and contrasted to one another.

Anotace

Tato bakalářská práce analyzuje dohody s ďáblem jako motiv v irské literatuře. Analýza zahrnuje čtyři díla irských autorů. Jedním z nich je novela Oscara Wilda *Obraz Doriana Graye*. Další tři díla jsou krátkými příběhy. „Zázračná pomsta“ napsána Georgem Bernardem Shawem. „Pakt Sira Dominika“ byl napsán Josephem Sheridanem Le Fanu a třetí dílo bylo napsáno Flannem O'Brienem a nese název „Faustus Kelly“. Všechny tyto práce budou analyzovány, shrnuty a porovnány mezi sebou.

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1. Introduction

In my bachelor thesis I am going to analyze a motif of the pact with the devil in the Irish literature. I will examine four literature works of Irish writers of 19th and 20th century. One of them is a novel called *The Picture of Dorian Gray* written by Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900). The other three works of Irish authors are short stories. “The Miraculous revenge” was written by the Nobel Prize winner George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950). “Sir Dominick’s Bargain” was written by the famous horror writer Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu (1814 – 1873) and the third work is a drama written by Flann O’Brien (1911 – 1966) called “Faustus Kelly”.

All these works are summarized, compared and contrasted to one another with a conclusion at the end. These works will be scrutinized from the widest possible range of characteristics which should help us to understand the satanic bargain at the time.

In each work, a character is involved in making a deal with the devil. In their personalities, their life values directed them to make the bargain with the devil. Their appearance and if they are rich will be explored with a focus on the behaviour of the “hero” before and after making the deal... Likewise, their behavior to other people as well as to themselves or to the certain kinds of supernatural powers and are examined.

2. SIR DOMINICK'S BARGAIN: A LEGEND OF DUNORAN BY J. SHERIDAN LE FANU

2.1 Basic features of the story

The main characters in this short story are the Narrator, the Hunchback, who tells a story of Sir Dominick Sarsfield of Dunoran, Sir Dominick, Connor Hanlon, who is the grandfather of the hunchback and works as a butler for Sir Dominick and the devil.

The name of the first and second narrator is secret in this short story "Sir Dominick's bargain". The second narrator, described as hunchback of the darker complexion, walking with the stick while meeting both narrators. To distinguish both characters we will name the first the Narrator, a man not of local origins whom the reader may identify with, and second the local Irish Hunchback.

Except the traditional Irish English in this short story, there are a few Celtic expressions such as gossoon or poteen. These expressions refer to Garsún which means "boy" and poteen which stands for spirits usually made from potatoes etc.

The Narrator walks about Irish country and describes it in full detail including natural influences such as wind or light. He comes to the ruins of an old house which is overgrown with all kinds of vegetation. It is obvious that nobody has been living here for ages.

The Narrator enjoys his solitude during the night in this barren land. He is literally fascinated by it. The Narrator is so strangely amazed in this moment because most people would rather walk away from this place as fast as possible. Le Fanu hints that something peculiar is going to happen in this creepy setting.

Suddenly the hunchback reveals himself in the shadow speaking to the Narrator who did not notice him before at all. After a short conversation, the hunchback tells him a tale about Sir Dominick Sarsfield of Dunoran. This moment is marked as a beginning of the framed story.

2.2 The Plot

According to the hunchback, Sir Dominick Sarsfield, an aristocratic protestant lived a long time ago and this ruined house had belonged to him. He became addicted to gambling and got into big financial troubles.

One day he came back home after many months. He was greeted by Connor Hanlon, the hunchback's peasant grandfather who worked in this house as a butler. Both of them sat close to the fireplace where Sir Dominick explains his unpleasant situation to Connor and announces that he is leaving and going to the nearby forest. He explains that he might not come back. Connor is instructed that he must not follow him otherwise he will be killed. After that he gets on his alleged last journey. Sir Dominick goes to the woods because he wants to commit suicide even though he is not really sure he wants to do that.

When he reaches the place called Murroa Wood for a last time, he thinks about what he is going to do. In this dark moment some grand gentleman walks right up him. He is a handsome young man wearing cocked-hat with gold lace round it. Both of them greet each other by lifting their hats and the stranger says

“I am recruiting sir for my sovereign.” He pulls out a purse full of money saying “Don't be afraid the money won't burn you. If it proves honest gold, and if it prospers with you, I'm willing to make a bargain.” After that he says “This is the last day of February. I'll serve you seven years, and at the end of that time you shall serve me, and I'll come for you when the seven years

is over when the clock turns the minute between February and March, and the first of March ye'll come away with me, or never. You'll not find me a bad master any more than a bad servant. I love my own and I command all the pleasures and the glory of the world. And if you rather wait for eight months and twenty-eight days, before you sign the writin', you may, if you meet me here. But I can't do a great deal for you in the mean time, and if you don't sign then, all you get from me, up to that time, will vanish away and you'll be just as you are to-night, and ready to hang yourself on the first tree you meet."¹ (p.191)

After this offer Sir Dominick came back to the house with big bag full of golden guineas and he sat down with Connor and they counted money. Then he made Connor swear that he would not reveal this secret to anybody. Connor broke his oath because he told that to his grandson, the Hunchback.

When the eight months and twenty-eight days were nearly over Sir Dominick came back to the house with a troubled mind because all the money was spent and he found himself in quite the same position as before the certain time. He still had debts and could not find the way out of it. At the end he had no choice but to visit his new friend again in the woods of Murroa. He took off his crucifix which he wore around his neck because he was a Christian. He dares not to take them with him.

"His heart beat thick as he drew near it."²(p.194) The same man appeared behind one of the big oak trees and immediately started conversation.

"You found the money good" says he "but it was not enough. No matter you shall have enough and to spare. I'll see after your luck and I'll give you a hint whenever it can serve you. Anytime you want to see me you have only to come down here, and call my face to mind, and wish me present. You shan't owe a shilling by the end of the year, and you shall never miss the right

¹ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>

² FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>

card, the best throw and the winning horse. Are you willing?”³(p.194)

Sir Dominick agreed and the Devil passed him a needle and told him to give him three drops of his blood from his arm and then he took them in the cup of acorn and passed a pen to Sir Dominick and asked him to write the same words he tells him. Sir Dominick signed the bargain and each of the sides got one copy. Sir Dominick went home terrified but got out of his debts and with a lot of money and luck he enjoyed his life. He was even thinking of getting married.

After some time he went to the forest again to meet the devil. He was frightened more than ever and suddenly his friend appeared sitting on the big stone under one of the trees. He was dressed in rags and looked twice the size he had been and his face smutted with soot and he had a big steel hammer with a handle a yard long across his knees. The devil stood up and looked very tall. There was some conversation, but the only thing known was that Sir Dominick “was black as a night”⁴(p.196) and has not smiled at anything since that happened “and he grew worse and worse and darker and darker.”⁵(p.196)

Finally Sir Dominick sent for the priest who called for the Bishop. Both of them came to the house and gave Sir Dominick good advice. They told him to avoid all vices, specifically gambling, dicing, swearing and all the bad company and that he should live righteous life until the end of the defined period. According to the bishop and the priest, this might save him. Thus Sir Dominick began to follow these rules very strictly.

On the 28th February the priest came to the house according to the deal he had made with Sir Dominick. It was supposed to be the last day of his days in his mortal life but Sir Dominick made it through. He was safe and sound after the midnight and when he woke up the next day. He felt so happy and wanted to

³ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>

⁴ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>

⁵ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>

celebrate life. He invited people for a little soiree. They came to the house and immediately started drinking and gambling, and so did Sir Dominick.

When there was almost midnight one of the guests told Sir Dominick he had made a mistake because it was not the 1st March but the 29th February. Sir Dominick was shocked and panic took control of his head. He sent for the priest but it was too late. The devil was standing in front of the door just when the clock had shown 1 minute after Midnight and says “Tell your master that I’m here by the appointment, and expect him down-stairs this minute.”⁶(p.197) This sentence sounds really horribly as it is described by Connor who went for his master right after announcing him what the devil said. Sir Dominick was scared and refuses to come in front of the house but after he does not want to lose face in front of the guest and as a real man walking as he was sentenced to death, knowing consequences of his previous acts, he goes to meet the devil.

Next passage is quoted because it serves its purpose the best;

“My grandfather was walking six or eight steps behind him and he seen the stranger take a stride out to meet Sir Dominick, and catch him up in his arms, and whirl his head against the wall, and wi’ that the hall-doore flies open, and out goes the candles, and the turf and wood-ashes flyin’ with the wind out o’ the hall-fire, ran in a drift o’ sparks along the floore by his feet. Bang goes the hall-doore. It was all over with Sir Dominick.”⁷[p.198]

After that the quests lifted up the corpse leaning it against the wall. “But there was not a gasp left in him. He was cowl’d and stiffenin’ already.”⁸(p.198) The devil left with his soul.

⁶ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>

⁷ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>

⁸ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>

2.3 Analysis

In “Sir Dominick’s Bargain” everything ended as described in the bargain. It is quite traditional that any bargain with the devil is fulfilled as it happened in this one. Sometimes the man who makes the deal with the devil escapes as for example in “Faustus Kelly” written by Myles na gCopaleen.

Some readers interested in the demonology may be disappointed because there is no explanation where and how the devil disappeared as well as what he did with Sir Dominick after he killed him. The devil changes his appearance twice in this tale. It symbolizes that Sir Dominick is running out of time. As the end of the contract is approaching, the devil gets more terrifying.

At the end the devil in this short story was a real businessman. We can see that when he offers his services in exchange for the bloody signature giving Sir Dominick eight months and twenty-eight days for reconsideration. He also behaves like a businessman when he knows exactly what he has to say to Sir Dominick to get his signature on the contract, reminding us of salesmen and saleswomen nowadays.

Of course the whole motif expresses the greed of the wealth and lazy people who have no morals, and this aspect may be reflected in the behavior of the wealthy aristocrats of Le Fanu’s time and of people who inherit wealth and live immorally today.

3. FAUSTUS KELLY BY MYLES NA GCOPALEEN

3.1 Basic features of the story

This short story was first produced at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin and it is divided into 3 acts and it is played in just 3 scenes. Lot of Irish dialect makes it quite hard to comprehend for a foreigner properly.

It is set in the 20th century in Ireland, the main characters are Kelly who is Chairman of the Urban Council, Cullen, Reilly and Hoop who are members of the Council, Shawn who is also a member and an ex - T.D., Town Clerk, a Corkman, Mrs. Margaret Crockett - the widow, and Hannah who is her maid, Captain Shaw who is brother of Margaret and finally the stranger who symbolizes the Devil.

3.2 The plot

The whole play starts with the image of the Devil who is illuminated from the shoulders up. In this play with lights and shadows, there is also a visible part of Mr. Kelly which is his head. The devil is standing behind Mr. Kelly while he is signing the diabolical bond. After that a black comes out because the change of the background is necessary for the next scene. The first act is about to begin at full throttle.

The setting of the first act is the Council chamber, which is also used by the Town Clerk as his office. Cullen and Reilly are talking about motorcars, drunk drivers, women's clothing or for instance about Russian life and apparently

waiting for the others because of the arranged meeting of the Council. Then Shawn comes on stage and in a short time he is followed by the Town Clerk.

They have a discussion on all sorts of topics and in a definite time they talk about the Chairman too. They debate about him being elected for a T.D. (Taechta Dála) which means that after the election he would become a member of the lower house of Irish parliament. In this point they do not know if he is going to candidate for sure but if so they are ready to back him and help him in his campaign except Reilly. What happened between Reilly and the Chairman in the past is unclear but Reilly seems to have his own reasons why he does not like Mr. Kelly. Some of them are uncovered later such as Mr. Kelly spending plenty of time in Mrs. Crockett's house, leaving very late, which in Catholic Ireland is inconceivable for an unmarried couple. Both had some problems with each other in the past already. It is important to know that this is not only about problems between them but also the fact that Mr. Reilly is the kind of person who has problems finding any solution with all the people together. He believes that he knows everything the best so his conclusions to any kind of issue are the best as well. In his defense, on the other hand, he, as the only one, is aware that this department does not work correctly for normal people.

Usually very punctual Mr. Kelly suddenly enters the room with a smile on his face and accompanied by the stranger as the last one for the meeting. They discuss a few things that have to be solved until they get to the main point of this session or at least for Mr. Kelly which is an appointment of the rate collector. A huge argument starts immediately led by Reilly. The principal trouble is that this was not on program and nobody was acquainted with that but in the end, over the protests, the stranger is set as a new rate collector for this region. When all members of the Council leave, the stranger comes to Mr. Kelly to assure him that it is him and only him who will be elected as a new T.D. and that is the end of the first act.

The second act begins six weeks after the Council meeting. The scene is the living room of Mrs. Crockett's house and we are shifted into the midpoint of the vote. The Stranger reveals himself just once in this act and that is right from the beginning where he gives Hannah a necklace as a present and a letter for Mr. Kelly. He gives Hannah the necklace at the moment when the Devil's identity is revealed because Hannah reminds him about the necklace, namely that he forgot about so he tells her to look under the cushion pointing to the divan and it is magically really there.

Otherwise this part of story shows us Mr. Kelly avid for the elimination of jobbery and jockeying for a position in public departments and also as a fighter for Irish rights but as the audience suspects these assertions are all only lies. He repeats them so often that he believes they are true himself. Shaw comes to defend the honor of Mrs. Crockett and, after a quarrel with Mr. Kelly, he decides to be a candidate against him.

The third act takes place in the same house as the second one but four weeks after the election. Mr. Kelly, who is supposed to marry Mrs. Crockett, finds out that he won the vote so the devil kept his part of the contract. Almost immediately afterwards he loses her. She blames him that he is full of empty promises and that it is his fault that alcohol has power over almost everybody in the city, even over her brother because of his liquor store across the road.

In this part of the play, the stranger appears again with great anticipation and he came to the house when Cullen, Shawn and Town Clerk were already congratulating Mr. Kelly about his election as a new T.D. Mr. Kelly remembers the bargain and is frightened but does not want to accept his part of the bond he signed, and is pleading that he has not taken the oath yet. The stranger assures him that there is no rush and sits on the divan. The doorbell rings. It is Reilly. He salutes everybody and tells them that Council has received a letter from the Minister that says that the appointment of the stranger as the rate collector was the ready-up. This goes on the stranger's head and even worse news for him is that he

will not be sanctioned. The stranger does not understand what he did wrong so Reilly says and I quote “You were wheeled in on the ratepayers’ backs by a bare-faced twist and by your own pack of dirty lies on the query form. You will not be sanctioned.”⁹(p.188)

The stranger realizes that the situation is going to be serious so he asks Mr. Kelly if he can give him another job. Town Clerk replies him

“Another job? Are you crazy, man?” and adds “It will be all over the town by tomorrow morning. Shure you might as well be dead, man. The stranger begins to worry. All he wants is another job. Town Clerk continues you can be up for murder and welcome. You can take a hatchet and cut your wife into two pieces. People will say you are an odd class of a man. But this business of not being sanctioned oh, begob that is a different pair of sleeves. Wait and see, boy. As long as you live you will rue the day.”¹⁰(p.188, 189)

The agitated stranger knows that he must have a job and asks Mr. Kelly if he can fix him up for a few weeks but Mr. Kelly is well-aware of the danger of keeping him because he is the only one who really knows his identity. As many non-Irish people he still does not understand. Couple of explanations on the topic follows such as Town Clerk says “I would rather have the leprosy or as Reilly explains him that there is no bed for him tonight, no cigarettes, no beer even no answer to any of his questions no matter where he puts them in this town.”¹¹(p.191)

The stranger becomes very nervous and asks Mr. Kelly whether he can stay in his house but he replies that the clergy would not have it. The word clergy makes the stranger even more nervous. Mr. Kelly reads the situation to tell him that if he

⁹ O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, p. 115-197. ISBN 0670672068.

¹⁰ O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, p. 115-197. ISBN 0670672068.

¹¹ O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, p. 115-197. ISBN 0670672068.

stays he will not have a life because nobody will talk to him. The stranger is in blind alley he cannot believe. "But I have to talk to people. That is my job. I have to talk to them, to persuade them, to make them do what I want. I mean, I like talking to people"¹²(p.193) he says. The stranger is really scared defending himself that he has nothing to hide but then gets his coat and leaves the room.

Meanwhile Mr. Kelly has one of his usual mendacious speeches about how he is fighting for everybody as a new T.D.

In the final the devil re-enters the room again in his ceremonial black robe and says

"Not for any favour in heaven or earth or hell would I take that Kelly and the others with me to where I live, to be in their company for ever and ever and ever. Here is the contract, his signed bond. I want nothing more of Irish public life."¹³(p.196, 197)

He rips the contract a part and the whole play finishes in a same mood it started.

3.3 Analysis

This play is very suspenseful especially because who the devil is remains unclear for almost one third of the play and even when his power is evident when he gives the necklace to Hannah, we cannot be sure it is really him. All the Council members look suspicious. None of the characters is a good-hearted person. They are all devils, all worse than the real devil himself.

¹² O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, p. 115-197. ISBN 0670672068.

¹³ O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, p. 115-197. ISBN 0670672068.

The bargain between Mr. Kelly and the devil seems to be very different from all other books containing a pact with the devil I have read, movies I have seen or told stories I have heard because in this particular play Mr. Kelly does not even realize that after fulfilling his desires he will eventually have to go to hell because he looks really surprised at the end of the story. Moreover, O'Brien breaks the tradition when the devil leaves in an easy way like this. Usually the person who is using diabolic benefits has to figure out some kind of plan to escape in the end or goes to hell, rather than the devil is being out deviled by human beings. Therefore the end of Faustus Kelly is original and unexpected. Finally this is also the first book where the devil is scared by a greater evil than himself, namely by Irish politicians.

4. THE MIRACULOUS REVENGE BY GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

4.1 Main characters

Zeno Legge is a narrator of this story coming from England. His uncle is a Cardinal Archbishop who sends him on a quest because of Mr. Hickey who wrote to Cardinal about the miracle that had happened in his town. He has a daughter called Kate Hickey. The last of the main characters is Mr. Langlan who works as a plough man.

4.2 Description of Zeno's character

The story is narrated by Zeno Legge. He is a plump man who has a lot of stamina and is very intrusive having a lot of passions and desires. He often reacts to the situations fast without thinking which usually does not work well for him. Unfortunately he is very easily irritable.

Because of his personality Zeno despises with people who do not appreciate his intelligence or manners and this man is sent by his uncle who is a Cardinal to investigate truthfulness of a miracle that happened in the town where he does not know anybody.

As above mentioned he is intrusive and we can see that in the book when he goes to visit his uncle at home in very late hours.

“Who are you?” asks the cardinal, “I am Zeno Legge” replies Zeno. “What do you want at this late hour? Go to your hotel. I will see you in the morning. Good night” says cardinal. “I felt that if I let this rebuff pass, I should not feel kindly towards my uncle in the morning.”¹⁴

This last sentence shows on the other hand his quick and wrong thinking which is followed by wrong reaction as he knocks on the door again because he wants to speak to his uncle. “I therefore plied the knocker with my right hand and kept the bell ringing with my left until I heard the door chain rattle within.”¹⁵

We can see Zeno’s cocksureness even more when he plays the piano again in very late hours in his hotel. Other guests come to complain about it but he does not care about anybody as we can see in these lines; “Sir. May I ask whether you are mad, that you disturb people at this hour with such unearthly noise?” asks one of the guests dressed in pyjamas. “Is it possible you dislike it?” answers Zeno.¹⁶

This event had actually happened before he went to visit his uncle.

It is obvious now that Zeno does not respect other’s people needs and cares just about himself but it is important to mention that he does not see how he acts and that’s why he does not understand why everybody has some kind of problem with him. This is shown, for example, right in the beginning of the whole story where Zeno describes his uncle and family as “He is like most of my family, deficient in feeling, and consequently cold to me personally”¹⁷ The lack of emotion is his uncle’s flaw. He sees all things just from his point of view and that is why he will never see any flaws on his own.

¹⁴ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

¹⁵ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

¹⁶ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

¹⁷ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

Zeno is also the only one in the town that feels some kind of sympathy to Brimstone Billy as we can see in the line where he says “I looked down at the grave with a pang of compassion for the unfortunate Wolfe Tone Fitzgerald, with whom the blessed would not rest.”¹⁸

4.3 The plot

The short story *Miraculous Revenge* tells a tale about a dead man Wolfe Tone Fitzgerald also called Brimstone Billy by people of the town Four Mile Water. He was a drunken, profane sinner speaking ill of the dead people and good-for-nothing. He died insisting on his values. After his death he was buried in the town's cemetery where only holy people were supposed to rest in peace. But the decent folk would not lie next to sinner such as Brimstone Billy.¹⁹ He symbolizes everything that disgusts people living according to the rules and recommended ways which gave them God. They would not find peace during their resting time.

The miracle happened the next day when all other graves surrounding him moved to the other side of the river. His bad reputation preceded him so much that even the dead souls did not approve him resting next to them. The supernatural power of graves moving only by themselves in interest of finding a better neighbourhood shows that even dead people feel bias against somebody which lead them to avoid them. It also adds some spicy mystique atmosphere to this story.

Zeno investigates the miracle and finds out that everybody in the city agrees with the theory of the graves moving by themselves. He sends a letter of approval

¹⁸ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

¹⁹ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

about this genuine miracle to his uncle. Spending time in the town he finds himself in many quarrels especially with Kate Hickey.

He wants to explain his behavior and manners to seventeen years old Kate Hickey because he feels love for her. He tries to convince her that he is not mad as everybody says and better than a man who he thinks she loves. She is bored with him and in the certain ways she hates him. The interesting thing is that he does not try to convince just her that he is not mad and can be trusted. The real truth is that he tries to convince almost everybody but he convinces only himself.

Once he comes to the house of Hickey's and wants to appeal to Kate again but he makes another enormous mistake when he tells her about informing the Cardinal in case of the moved graveyard. She tells this to her father and Mr. Langlan and that leads to more than verbal argument. During the argument Zeno loses his self-control for a while. He is obsessed by rage and for a moment he even thinks of killing them with his revolver because they behave to him in very disrespectful way and do not appreciate his attitude towards the miracle as he defended it in front of his uncle.

“Instantly I became murderous... Fortunately the impulse to kill vanished before a sudden perception of how I might miraculously humble the mad vanity in which these foolish people had turned upon me.”²⁰

After the dispute Zeno wants his revenge on this family who treated him so badly and did not appreciate his qualities. He can focus just on his own ego and revenge which is the reason for committing miraculous revenge by moving the grave of Wolfe Tone Fitzgerald during the night to the opposite bank of the river to the graves of buried holy people again.

Father Hickey paid for his lack of hospitality. He was accidentally sentenced by Zeno to be sacked from the church because the miracle had happened again

²⁰ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

and the graves of the holly people had moved to the other side of the river to their original place right after he had finished moving the grave of Brimstone Billy. In the eyes of the church this looked as nothing had ever happened and changed except there was a grave on the opposite bank of the river.

4.4 Analysis

There are two possibilities who made the bargain with the devil. It could be either the obvious option of Zeno Legge who made a deal with his uncle Cardinal Archbishop or it could be Mr. Wolfe Tone Fitzgerald who could had made a deal with the devil and as a part of his punishment he shall never rest among people who lived according to the God's rules and recommendations but because we do not have sufficient information about the case of Brimstone Billy and his earthbound life we should not pay attention to the second possibility.

As it was said we can compare the deal between Zeno and the Cardinal with the bargain with the devil. Cardinal wants Zeno to investigate the miracle because he feels that it does not have to be the real work of God. He has no other requirements and his attitude towards the miracle is clearly investigative and that is why we can see that he is just a normal ordinary person trying to help the church. Zeno, on the other hand, is endowed with plenty of bad habits. He can be really vengeful and is very difficult to get along well with him. His vengeance out of pettiness on innocent people who offended him makes from him the devil of this bargain, the devil in the human body.

5. The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

5.1 Main characters

Dorian Gray is a young rich aristocrat prepared to sacrifice his own soul for the eternal youth. Basil Hallward is the painter and author of the Dorian's picture. Lord Henry Wotton is a scoffer and a manipulator. Sybil Vane is an actress and Dorian's fiancée while James Vane is her brother. The last of the main characters is Alan Campbell who is a chemist helping Dorian with the corpse.

5.2 Basic features of the story

Beauty is the main essence of this story. It is taken by Dorian, Basil and Lord Henry as the most important thing in life. In many parts this book reminds atmosphere from the book *Pride and Prejudice* as people slander others behind their back which looks so typical for England in 19th century.

5.3 The plot

The whole story begins in Basil's atelier with Basil Hallward and Lord Henry Wotton talking. Basil shows his picture which he is painting and Lord Henry wants to know who it is. As Basil talks he reveals the name Dorian Gray to Lord

Henry. Lord Henry wonders why Basil does not want to exhibit his picture and who is actually painted at the picture. Basil says about Dorian this; "Every day. I couldn't be happy if I didn't see him every day. He is all my art to me now"²¹(p.16) Lord Henry is very interested in him and insists on meeting him. Suddenly Dorian Gray comes to visit Basil and Lord Henry sees Dorian for the first time. Basil warns Dorian against Lord Henry's bad influence but Dorian seems not to care about it. Basil is finishing his portrait while Dorian and Lord Henry talk outside. Lord Henry briefly informs Dorian about transience of beauty as they are talking about Dorian's possible opportunity of getting sunburn. Lord Henry says "you have the most marvelous youth, and youth is the only thing worth having."²²(p.29)

When Basil shows the picture he painted to Dorian he realizes the truth about the painting as he murmurs

"How sad it is! I shall grow old and horrible and dreadful. But this picture will remain always young. It will never be older than this particular day of June... If it were only the other way! If it were I who was to be always young and the picture that was to grow old! For that—for that—I would give everything! Yes, there is nothing in the whole world I would not give! I would give my soul for that!"²³(p.34)

Dorian is literally terrified of getting and being old. Basil is surprised by Dorian's reaction. He asks Dorian and he answers "Appreciate it? I am in love with it, Basil. It is part of myself. I feel that".²⁴(p.36)

After this event Lord Henry often meets Dorian even though Basil asked him not to do it because Dorian is too dear for him.

²¹ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

²² WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

²³ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

²⁴ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

Someday Dorian is waiting in Lord Henry's house for the landlord to tell him that he is in love. When Lord Henry, who is also called just Harry in the book, arrives he tells him that he has fallen in love with a seventeen years old actress called Sibyl Vane after he saw her in a play Romeo and Juliet in a little theatre. Because of Dorian's beauty Sibyl immediately starts calling him "Prince charming".²⁵ (p.65) After some time Dorian gets engaged to Sibyl. She is enthusiastic about that and goes to her family to tell them the news specifically to her mother and brother. Her brother swears to kill him by saying "for as sure as there is a God in heaven if he ever does you any wrong I shall kill him".²⁶ (p.82)

Lord Henry meets Basil to tell him that Dorian is engaged. He does not want to believe it. In this part of the book, specifically in the chapter six, it looks that Basil wants to either somehow manipulate Dorian or has some special feelings for him. Everybody knows that Oscar Wilde had a weak spot for people who preferred making love with the same gender so he might put some of his perception of the world to this book as well. On Dorian's request Lord Henry also invites Basil to the play where Sibyl is supposed to shine as a bright star among the other actors.

When all of them come to the theatre Dorian expects and predicts a great performance from his fiancée but she looks totally incompetent once she had come on the stage. All of them felt very disappointed. After this event Dorian goes to Sibyl to talk to her. She explains to her horribleness in the play as

"Dorian, Dorian before I knew you, acting was the one reality of my life. It was only in the theatre that I lived. It was Rosalind one night and Portia the other. You came—oh, my beautiful love!—and you freed my soul from the prison. You taught me what reality really is."²⁷ (p.100, 101)

²⁵ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

²⁶ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

²⁷ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

Because of her incompetence to play Dorian finds her no longer interesting and ends up the whole 6 months long chapter of his life by saying

“...you have killed my love. You have thrown it all away. You are shallow and stupid. My God! How mad I was to love you! What a fool I have been. You are nothing to me now. I will never see you again.”²⁸(p.102)

After that he goes home. What a nice person he is?

After arriving home his eyes glance at his picture that Basil has painted and he can see that his face at the picture respectively the mouth has changed “there was a touch of cruelty in the mouth”.²⁹(p.105) At this point of the story Dorian realizes that he promised his soul for the eternal youth. He also knows that his soul which symbolizes the painting grows ugly instead of his face. He wants to change his way of life and aims to be a good person when he discovers that Sibyl has committed suicide. At first he feels very sorry for her blaming himself that he murdered her but Lord Henry explains to him that there is no reason for that which makes Dorian calm and his conscience is quite clear again.

He is slowly getting obsessed by his painting. “Eternal youth, infinite passions, pleasures subtle and secret, wild joys and wilder sins—he was to have all these things.”³⁰(p.122, 123)

The next day Basil comes to visit Dorian. When they talk about poor Sibyl Dorian mentions that he does not want to hear about her anymore because “what is past is past.”³¹(p.126) He even sneers at her as at the horrible actress. It is obvious that Dorian has changed a lot and Basil blames Lord Henry for that. We have to say that he is right because in some moments Lord Henry plays with Dorian as with a puppet in the way of being calm, reasonable and having a similar

²⁸ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

²⁹ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

³⁰ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

³¹ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

twister point of view at things as Dorian does. As a response to this accusation Dorian says “I owe a great deal to Harry, Basil. More than I owe to you. You only taught me to be vain”.³²(p.126) Basil also wants to exhibit the portrait but Dorian would not allow it as well as showing it to him.

After the talk with Basil Dorian decides to move the picture and hide it in the old schoolroom and he wants the only key from it because he feels that the painting is too insecure in its current position.

Dorian receives a mail that says “Inquest on an actress”³³(p.144) and a book from Lord Henry. He starts to read this book and it is the strangest book he has ever read. He is literally fascinated by this yellow book of one character and no plot for years. He is unable to free himself from it. This particular book written by some Parisian in 19th century influenced Dorian a lot because of the only character there who has a same personality as he has. “The whole book seemed to him to contain the story of his own life, written before he had lived it.”³⁴(p.147)

How the time was running and the years flew, with the exception of his personality, “he grew more and more enamoured of his own beauty, more and more interested in corruption his own soul”.³⁵(p.148) He visits dirty places of the town and uses opium as booster when he does not have anything to do while changing hobbies and interests in a meantime such as studying of perfumes, listening to music, traveling or jewels. As he is not at home he gets scared about his portrait and that is why he comes home. Another reason for him coming back

³² WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

³³ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

³⁴ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

³⁵ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

home was that “He hated to be separated from the picture that was such a part of his life.”³⁶(p.162)

On the 9th November in the day of Dorian’s 38th birthday he celebrates in Lord Henry’s house. After leaving the soirée he accidentally meets Basil although he does not want it and tries to avoid him. Basil tells him that he is leaving England for 6 months going to Paris. They go to Dorian’s house where Basil blames Dorian of visiting dirty places and living according to wrong values and says “I wonder do I know you? Before I could answer that I should have to see your soul.”³⁷(p.175) As Dorian has changed a lot and became quite mad he takes Basil to the picture. Basil is the only person whom Dorian wants to share his devil’s secret with. He shows him the picture. Basil is horrified when he sees the hideous face and expresses his feelings in the line “Christ! What a thing I must have worshipped! It has the eyes of a devil.”³⁸(p.180) Dorian looks at the picture and he gets obsessed by rage. The canvas whispers to his ears and at this moment he hates Basil more than he ever hated anything else. He takes a knife and stabs Basil many times with the first hit into the great vein behind the ear. Basil is dead. He needs to get rid of all the evidence that could lead to him.

The next morning Dorian sends for Mr. Alan Campbell who comes although they do not like and speak with each other anymore because of their past. Mr. Campbell is educated in chemistry and Dorian needs his skills to get rid of the corpse. At first he is declining to help Dorian. Dorian admits of murdering Basil to Mr. Campbell and then he passes him a piece of paper where he has written something and which persuades Mr. Campbell of doing the job. One of Dorian’s servants goes to see Campbell’s assistant and brings the equipment necessary for this operation. Dorian sends the servant away and after five hours of work using

³⁶ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

³⁷ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

³⁸ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

some nitric acids the corpse vanished. Mr. Campbell leaves for home tempting to see Dorian no more. Later we find out he has committed suicide.

Dorian really enjoys all the pleasures he possibly can. He visits the opium den again the same night he made Basil disappeared. He goes there because he remembers the sentence that Lord Henry told him earlier “To cure the soul by means of the senses, and the senses by means of the soul.”³⁹(p.212) He is trying to avoid the responsibility for his previous actions. In this part of the town he is also called “the devil’s bargain”.⁴⁰(p.217) While Dorian is smoking one of the opium’s pipes a sailor comes in and wants to hurt him badly. It is James Vane seeking for revenge. They meet each other and James wants to kill Dorian with the revolver. Dorian explains to him that the man he is searching for is not him because he would have to look much older. James apologizes for misunderstanding and releases Dorian but after there is a woman who met Dorian eighteen years ago and tells James that it was “Prince charming”⁴¹ who he just let go and in this way she reveals to James the real identity of the man he sparred.

Someday Dorian sits in the conservatory at Selby Royal talking to the Duchess of Monmouth and Lord Henry. As they talk Dorian sees the face of James Vane behind the window and loses consciousness for a short time.

The next day Dorian is scared of dying and he does not want to leave his house. After three days he decides to go to shooting-party with a man called Geoffrey Clouston. During hunting Geoffrey points his gun at something he does not know what it is and shoots at it but finds out that he killed a man. Geoffrey shows his corrupted personality as well as almost all people in this novel by saying “What an ass the man was to get in front of the guns.”⁴²(p.231) At this moment the

³⁹ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

⁴⁰ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

⁴¹ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

⁴² WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

depressing moods of Dorian come and leave. We can see that nobody would ever be able to live eternal life. Dorian has been living just with a simple thought of that only for 18 years and he is bored even though he is rich and he can basically do whatever he wishes anytime. He feels that misfortune follows him wherever he goes.

Nobody knows who the dead man is and that is why the gamekeeper Thornton comes to Dorian to ask him about the dead man. Dorian wants to try identifying the body after getting to know that the dead man looks as a sailor and of course it is James Vane and little luck for Dorian. “As he rode home, his eyes were full of tears, for he knew he was safe.”⁴³(p.239)

Later Dorian talks to Lord Henry and tells him that he has decided to change his way of life and be a good person. It is obvious that this will not be so easy because we already know that he is an idealist. He believes he can change himself because he met a farm girl and did not seduce her. Dorian convinced himself that by being a good person he can undo what he has done to his soul reflected in the portrait. They are also talking about the Basil’s disappearance when Dorian asks Lord Henry “Harry, did it ever occur to you that Basil was murdered?”⁴⁴(p.243) Lord Henry expresses his feelings about this rumour by yawning and does not really pay attention to it. After that Dorian asks a very untraditional question because in a certain time like this is it looks that you are the murderer quite a lot “What would you say, Harry, if I told you that I had murdered Basil?”⁴⁵(p.244) Lord Henry does not believe that Dorian would be able to do that because Dorian is not gifted with any killer’s abilities. To tell the truth Lord Henry thinks that he knows everything best through the whole novel. He introduces us a wide range of his ultimate truths which are usually based on generalizing things because of some

⁴³ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

⁴⁴ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

⁴⁵ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

kind of own insufficient experience. At the end of the discussion Harry invites Dorian to come to another soirée the next day.

Among a lot of other questions Lord Henry asks Dorian “By the way, Dorian, what does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”⁴⁶(p.246) Dorian is surprised that Harry is asking him. In this part of the book the reader knows that Dorian is strongly paranoid and that is why this was just a normal question alluding to nothing specific. Dorian lectures Lord Henry “The soul is a terrible reality. It can be bought, and sold, and bartered away. It can be poisoned, or made perfect. There is a soul in each one of us. I know it.”⁴⁷(p.246)

Dorian became tired of hearing his own name everywhere. Again, try to imagine the eternity in this case. He remembers people who are dead because of him such as Sibyl or Alan. He has reproofs of conscience. As he comes home and sends the servant away he wonders if the picture shows any change already, after he did not seduce the farm girl and that is why he goes to have a look at his portrait. “Yes, he would be good, and the hideous thing that he had hidden away would no longer be a terror to him.”⁴⁸(p.253) He really believes that it is going to be alright but nothing has changed which makes him so helpless that he starts crying.

“He would see no change, save that in the eyes there was a look of cunning, and in the mouth the curved wrinkle of the hypocrite. The thing was still loathsome—more loathsome, if possible, than before.”⁴⁹(p.253, 254)

He is becoming really mad looking at the picture. He is angry that the murder of Basil follows him all the time as well as the other sins he has committed. He realizes that the only piece of evidence against him proving his murder of Basil’s

⁴⁶ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

⁴⁷ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

⁴⁸ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

⁴⁹ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222

is the portrait itself and wants to destroy it. He thinks that if he destroys the painting he will be free again without any other reproaches of his conscience. He takes the knife that has been laying around and which he used for Basil's murder and stabs the picture.

When the servants, who got awake after they had heard a scream, broke into the room they saw a portrait of their master in all his beauty hanging on the wall and an old man with a knife stabbed in his heart lying on the floor. "He was withered, wrinkled, and loathsome of visage."⁵⁰(p.256)

5.4 Analysis

As we can see the bargain is simply between Dorian and his own portrait. The picture of him symbolizes the devil and it has a total control over him. If the picture symbolizes the devil then there is no doubt that Lord Henry Wotton is one of devil's servants because he influenced Dorian a lot made him the monster and the madman he was. Dorian hates the portrait and in a same time adores it. He keeps an eye on the painting but only as much as it supervises him. There is a special kind of connection between them. It is similar to mortgage only Dorian got instead of the house beauty and youth and he pays that by his soul instead of money as the years go by.

There are other proofs of this statement such as that the bargain exists only due to the date of its destroying which actually kills Dorian too. It is also important to say that the devil could not make a better bargain because of the impossibility of eternal life. It is obvious that the devil bestowed his powers to the picture.

⁵⁰ WILDE, Oscar. *The picture of Dorian Gray*. London [etc.]: Penguin books, 1994. ISBN 978-014-0623-222



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⁵¹ <http://salmanlatif.wordpress.com/2011/08/04/the-picture-of-dorian-gray/>

6. Conclusion

6.1 Comparison

In many aspects may be compared just three of the works. “The Miraculous revenge” is quite different from the others because the devil in this story is just symbolic in a form of a normal human and the contract is also only symbolic because Zeno Legge, the name of the main character, represents the devil in this story. He makes a deal with the Archbishop of the Church. There are the supernatural powers in each of them usually represented by the devil or, for example, by luck.

All the main characters involved in dealing with the devil are men of the productive age and of higher social status. All of them want to gain either respect, money, certain social role or eternal youth and beauty. The stories contain a lesson that should be taken in mind. They instruct not to make such bargains or it pinpoints some defect of character that should be avoided. For example, one of the lessons in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is to avoid vanity.

In all of the stories we do not know how hell looks. The fear that almost all the characters feel is more and more intense as they get closer to the limited time on earth which is specified in the devil’s contract.

All of the main characters who signed the bargain with the devil wanted to change their lifestyle to live an extraordinary life as well as later when they changed their lifestyles to live a decent life trying to escape to be taken with the devil behind the barriers of the world as we know that.

All of the stories contain revenge of some kind in the plot except the short story called “Sir Dominick’s bargain”. The connection between the motif of the bargain

with the devil and revenge is universal. We know of it with Thackeray, Marlowe, Goethe, Irving and others.

6.2 Contrast

Contrasts include the way the devil is presented in each story. If the devil is presented in the story, he looks in and acts differently than in the others. In two of the stories namely in “Sir Dominick’s Bargain” and in “Faustus Kelly” is the devil presented as one of the characters. In “The Miraculous revenge” he is represented by the characteristics of the main figure Zeno Legge and in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is the devil represented by the portrait.

As mentioned above every of the sinners has its own reasons for signing the contract as well as desires that wants to fulfill. Conditions of the contract are various too. For example, we have read that Sir. Dominick Sarsfield had had limited time before the devil came for him while Dorian Gray could live forever if he was able to do it.

Each of the main figures has different character and temperament which is reflected in the way he behaves and reacts to the situations.

Two of the main characters die at the end specifically Dorian Gray and Sir Dominick Sarsfield and two of them survive the bargain unharmed. All of them behave carelessly to the lives and needs of others except for Sir Dominick Sarsfield who is indeed quite a nice person, though a gambler.

Another difference included the gift which the main characters received according to the conditions of the each of the bargains.

6.3 Closure points

At the beginning of my bachelor thesis I have established the theme which should have interested us in previous pages as well as the recommendation of what we should be searching for in order to understand the bargain with the devil in these pieces of work.

We have explored together the characters and the temperaments of each of the main characters especially the people who had “shaken the hand with the devil” in all four stories. It is important to mention that neither of the works is the same as any of the others in the way of representation of the devil nor the conditions in each contract are same. We have seen their life before signing the contract and we have seen their personalities after the signing.

All of them were people of bad character. The characters did not care about others as well as they were interested just in their own businesses, just in things where they could make some profit which made them perfectly suitable for those kinds of bargains.

Every of these treaties begin with a wish, a wish that contains a soul to be traded for the certain pleasures of the mortal existence. Making a bargain with the devil of any kind is not the wisest option any person should do. It is not worth selling own soul. This is clearly the issue of all these works that were written by the Irish hand.

Interestingly in none of the works analysed was a woman a main character making a bargain with the devil. I believe that it would be amazing and exciting to watch what a woman would want to have and her behaviour before and after especially if it would be written in the modern age.

7. Resumé

Tato bakalářská práce je zaměřena na motiv smlouvání s ďáblem v irské literatuře. Konkrétně pak analyzuje čtyři díla irských autorů 19. a 20. Století. Jedním z nich je novela nesoucí název *Obraz Doriana Graye*, která byla napsána Oscarem Wildem (1854 – 1900). Další tři díla, která podstoupila mou analýzu jsou krátké příběhy. Prvním z krátkých příběhů je „Zázračná pomsta“, která byla napsána držitelem Nobelovy ceny Georgem Bernardem Shawem (1856 – 1950). „Pakt Sira Dominika“ byl napsán známým hororovým spisovatelem Josephem Sheridanem Le Fanu (1814 – 1873) a konečně posledním z krátkých příběhů je „Faustus Kelly“, jež byl napsán Flannem O’Brienem (1911 – 1966).

Všechna tato díla byla shrnuta a porovnána mezi sebou. V každém s těchto děl je postava, která uzavře dohodu s ďáblem. Zajímavostí je, že v žádném z těchto děl není žena hlavní „hrdinkou“. U každé takové postavy pak došlo k analýze jejich charakteru a temperamentu před a po podepsání smlouvy s ďáblem. Mohli jsme vidět, že ani v jednom z děl není ďábel vyobrazen stejně, tak jako podmínky smluv jsou v každém z nich odlišné. Všechny tyto postavy byli lidé špatného charakteru či mravů, kteří nejeví zájem o životy ostatních lidí a starají se jen sami o sebe.

Všechny tyto dohody s ďáblem začínají přáním. Přáním, které nabízí duši výměnou za určité výhody, ať už materiální či jiné jako je například věčná krása. Mohli jsme vidět, že uzavřít dohodu s ďáblem se nevyplácí. Není nic, co by stálo za prodání své vlastní duše. Toto je jasná zpráva všech čtyř děl napsaných irskými autory.

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