
Dream Shattered
-- A Tentative Analysis of

(_____ **Times New Roman** _____)

_____ **Times New Roman** _____)

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For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts

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Abstract

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is Jack London's semi-autobiographical novel, which gives a very vivid and detailed portrait of the hero, from an impoverished and uneducated sailor to a successful writer, who was inspired by the elegance and knowledge of the upper class girl Ruth and thereafter kept toiling himself in learning and writing and eventually got acclamation but meanwhile lost his hope in life and drowned himself in the sea.

is considered to be the most remarkable work of Jack London's representative works for two things. One is its autographic style that offers precious materials to study London of that time the other is its great value in both mental and artistic fields.

By analyzing the characters and the theme, the paper mainly discusses the reasons for Martin Eden's death, highlighting the role the social factors have played Chapter One explains Martin's long struggle for success. Chapter Two illustrates that Martin Eden's death is inevitable. Because of his bewilderment in love and writing, the change in the attitudes of people around him and the failure of going back to the working class to which he belongs, he chooses to die. It is his only solution to the conflicts. Chapter Three focuses on Martin's disillusionment due to the huge gap between idealism and reality. The so-called American dreams are not based on reality, but on beliefs; not on reason, but on ideals. The idea that individuals can change the society is deceptive, which will make people go astray and lead to ultimate destruction.

The present paper concerns itself with a detailed study of Martin Eden's

inevitable death. Quite different from previous researches, this paper aims to emphasize the importance of two main conflicts, highlighting the gaps between individuals and the society, between idealism and reality.

Key Words: Martin Eden, inevitability of death, American Dream, disillusionment

Introduction

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was published in 1909, the first half of the novel with autobiography properties, on the author's early life experiences and later fame. Jack London pioneered in literature of social protest and the pattern of his life was reflected in many of his novels, especially in .

The fate of Martin Eden is touching. His heart is full of passion and fortitude for its aspiration, yet his dream crumbles into dust the moment it has been realized. It is the hideous and despicable hypocrisy of society that destroys the young man's ardent expectation, and plunges him into bewildering despair. ...

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Introduction

Introduction

the reason for

my choosing this topic for my paper is that...

Chapter One Pursuit of American Ideals

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Jack London was living at the period of the turning of the 20th century, which is the so called the “Gorky of the United States”...

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1.1 Long Struggle for Success

It is obvious that the entire portrait of Martin Eden’s story is not that intricate or complicated. Martin strives to be a famous writer at the bottom of society. ...

1.2 Changing for Love

For the sake of getting affection of a young woman of middle class, Martin believes that he will make himself worthy of Ruth Morse’s love if he can educate himself and acquire the manners he has not learned as a seaman. ...

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Chapter Two The Inevitability of the Death of Martin Eden

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2.1 The Bewilderment of Love

Martin Eden considered love was pure, sane, beautiful, and no other things in the world could compare with love. He loved madly; from the first sight, he fell in love with Ruth, who was noble, sane not like the secular women. In fact, he neglected the issue, Ruth heard her parents' advice and considered all the real aspects, she kept in mind that Martin was a sailor, no money and from the inner heart she thought Martin could not become a famous writer, even though he was intelligent and diligent. She always hoped that Martin took a job for money.

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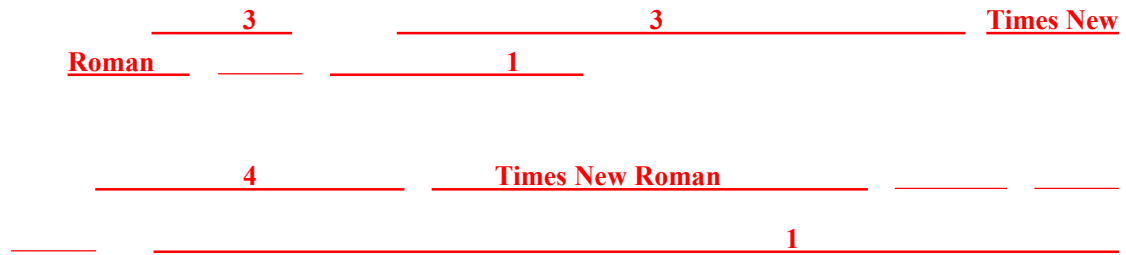
2.4 The Failure of Going Back to Working Class

With the philosophy deeply planted in Martin's heart, his class consciousness took form in his brain. He hated of bourgeois' vulgar ideas. Martin was a victim of paradox, which had lead to his destination.

...

...

Chapter Three Disillusionment of American Dream



3.1 The Conflicts between Idealism and Realism

Through the analysis of the bewilderment above, it is obviously demonstrated that Martin Eden began to live for ideal, for belief. In his eyes, all things seemed to be beautiful, simple and pure. As for love, he felt Ruth was his angel; Ruth was a pure, beautiful, woman, different from those women who always show up around him. ...

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3.2 The Determining Factor of the Social Environment

Realism is featured by its representation of a typical character in a typical. Realists tend to aesthetically generalize the typical characters in writing, even by exaggeration. Naturalists agree with the accurate writing of realism, but are opposed to any exaggeration. ...

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Conclusion

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It is not difficult to see that Martin Eden was the victim of the two pairs of conflicts discussed in previous parts. His personal tragedy was also that of his society and his time. It is well known that human beings are social beings. Hence no individual can isolate himself from the society in which he was born and brought up. This means that he can never get himself immune from the influence of his time. Furthermore, his thoughts will be definitely tinged by the society more or less. Martin was no exception. Destined to live in the then American society, he was likely to take in the prevailing philosophies of that time...

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