

A Study on extreme states of mind with subject to typical death acts in Fyodor Dostoevsky's selected works

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Abstract

Unlike many other Russian writers of the first part of the 19th century, Dostoyevsky was not born into the landed gentry. He often stressed the difference between his own background and that of Leo Tolstoy or Ivan Turgenev and the effect of that difference on his work. First, Dostoyevsky was always in need of money and had to hurry his works into publication. Although he complained that writing against a deadline prevented him from achieving his full literary powers, it is equally possible that his frenzied style of composition lent his novels an energy that has remained part of their appeal. Second, Dostoyevsky often noted that, unlike writers from the nobility who described the family life of their own class, shaped by "beautiful forms" and stable traditions, he explored the lives of "accidental families" and of "the insulted and the humiliated."

Keywords: Landed Gentry, Frenzied Style, Beautiful Norms, Accidental Families, Humiliated

1. Introduction

Fyodor Dostoevsky was born in Moscow, Russia, on November 11, 1821, the son of a doctor. His family was very religious, and Dostoevsky was deeply religious all his life. He began reading widely when he was a youth. He was first educated by his mother, father, and tutors, but at thirteen years old he was sent to a private school. Two years later his mother died. His father, a cruel man, was murdered in 1839, when Dostoevsky was eighteen and attending school in St. Petersburg, Russia. Dostoevsky was trained to be a military engineer, but he disliked school and loved literature. When he finished school, he turned from the career he was trained for and devoted himself to writing. Dostoyevsky is usually regarded as one of the finest novelists who ever lived. Literary modernism, existentialism, and various schools of psychology, theology, and literary criticism have been profoundly shaped by his ideas. His works are often called prophetic because he so accurately predicted how Russia's revolutionaries would behave if they came to power. In his time he was also renowned for his activity as a journalist.

Dostoyevsky is best known for his novella *Notes from the Underground* and for four long novels, *Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot*, *The Possessed* (also and more accurately known as *The Demons* and *The Devils*), and *The*

Brothers Karamazov. Each of these works is famous for its psychological profundity, and, indeed, Dostoyevsky is commonly regarded as one of the greatest psychologists in the history of literature. He specialized in the analysis of pathological states of mind that lead to insanity, murder, and suicide and in the exploration of the emotions of humiliation, self-destruction, tyrannical domination, and murderous rage. These major works are also renowned as great "novels of ideas" that treat timeless and timely issues in philosophy and politics. Psychology and philosophy are closely linked in Dostoyevsky's portrayals of intellectuals, who "feel ideas" in the depths of their souls. Finally, these novels broke new ground with their experiments in literary form.

The novels which I have considered for this concept of research paper "**A Study on extreme states of mind with Subject to typical death acts**" in Fyodor Dostoevsky's selected works are

Crime and punishment (1866);

The Idiot (1869);

The eternal Husband (1870);

The demon (1872);

The Gentle Creature (1876);

The Dream of a Ridiculous Man (1877);

Brother Karamazov (1880)

The adolescent (1875)

A writer's dairy (1873–1881)

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2. Recurring Themes

This concept of Recurring themes which sound in the writings of Dostoevsky such as Role of Dream, Chronic Suicides and epilepsy which makes the characters to remain in extreme poor conditions and result to terrible deaths.

a. Role of Dream

The role of dream in Dostoevsky's works emphasizes often in his characters. In 'Crime and Punishment' Raskolnikov's dream on the beating of a horse by drunken peasants. The dream is significant on several planes, most notably in the parallel of events in the dream with Raskolnikov's plan to murder the old pawnbroker. Another recurring character is Svidrigaylov's whose final dream reiterates yet another source of internal conflict which Breger believes existed within the author himself. "The theme of the abuse of young children", he states, "and specifically the sexual abuse of young girls, had a strong grip on Dostoevsky's imagination." The image of raping a young girl, as in Svidrigaylov's dream, arises again through "Stavrogin's confession" in 'Devils.' Stavrogin is ultimately responsible for the death of a young girl who, prior to her hanging, "kept brandishing her little fists at him menacingly and shaking her head in reproach.

In the Short story "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man" the mad man contemplates that he is mad and confronts the vision of recurred dreams of killing himself. He dreams of killing himself in the heart with the help of a gun. After getting out of dream he realizes that he is completely wrong and starts residing a meaningful life.

Again in the Periodical 'A Writers Dairy' Dostoevsky highlighted the role of dream in the characters through his essays such as 'A Conciliatory dream beyond the scope of science,' and 'The Dream of a Ridiculous Man.

b. Chronic suicides

In the Short story "The gentle creature" and the novella 'The Eternal Husband' both the characters given up their life due to consumption and recurring act of killing themselves.

c. Epilepsy

Epilepsy is a group of neurological disorders characterized by epileptic seizures. Epileptic seizures are episodes that can vary from brief and nearly undetectable to long periods of vigorous shaking. The cause of most cases of epilepsy is unknown. Some cases occur as the result of brain injury, stroke, brain tumors, infections of the brain, and birth defects, through a process known as epileptogenesis. Epileptic seizures are the result of excessive and abnormal nerve cell activity in the cortex of the brain.

Dostoevsky's first epileptic seizure occurred when he was nine years old. These epileptic Seizures recurred sporadically throughout his life. Dostoevsky used his experiences to create characters with epilepsy in four of his twelve novels. Kirillov in "The Possessed", Smerdyakov in "The Brothers Karamazov" and Prince Myshkin in "The Idiot" and Kraft in "The Adolescent." Because of this epileptical seizure the above characters have committed suicide and some have murdered and rest of them remained completely mad in their future Life

3. Traumatic Incidences

This chapter deals with the constant spirit in existing one's life due to oppression and humiliation.

a. Murder in spirit of demonic oppression

In the novel "the Idiot" in which Rogozin is mad in killing NastasyaFillipovna. His love for NastasyaFillipovna is only oppression. He only possesses a criminal mind.

Again in the novel "The Demons" I have come across another wicked character such as Fedka who is an escaped convict whose service is taken by political group to kill Shatov. Shatov was brutally murdered by Fedka and weighted his body in a pond. Both the characters Rogozin and Fedkawas of criminal minds.

b. Suicide in spirit of unbearable emotion

The characters I have come across is 'Svidrigailov' in the Novel "Crime and Punishment." 'Ippolite' in "The Idiot", In "The Demon" Julia Mikaylova writes a Suicide note, shoots himself through the heart, another suicide in the novel is a little girl "Matryosha" who is a victim of rape by 'Stavrogin'. She become desperate and commits suicide by hanging herself. The final suicide in this Novel is by 'Stavrogin' who writes a confession letter which acknowledge the cause of his suicide. In the Novel "The Adolescent" the character Olya is an intelligent and educated girl, but is forced into the depravity of prostitution in order to help sustain both her own and her mother's lives. Olya is motivated by human terror, guilt, shame and youthful impetuosity. She completely become desperate and gave up her life.

In the Periodical 'A Writers Dairy' Dostoevsky highlighted many suicides which are attempted due to unbearable emotional stress. In the essay 'FomaDanilov, a Russian Hero' tortures to death due to his refusal of accepting Islam. In another essay 'Hartung's suicide and our eternal question' an immediate suicide attempted by the character. In the essay 'The boy Celebrating His Saint's Day' a 12 or 13 years old lad, a student in a junior high school had hanged himself because the teacher whose lesson the victim had not studied that day, punished him by making him stay after the school until 5 o'clock. It happened in this way.

4. Battle of faith

This concept of Battle of faith sounds in several works of Dostoevsky. He deals with the consequences of religion and disbelief which is also a major cause for the death acts.

a. Belief

Dostoevsky is purely religious. He is prophetic in nature. Dostoevsky's faith contained an enormous potential for humanity. That is why, in "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man," religious and humanistic ideas appear inseparable. In the short story 'A gentle Creature the meek one's suicide is not the result of irreligiosity. She is spiritual and for Dostoevsky one's spiritual life holds greater value. A murder in spirit is exempted from criminal prosecution. In 'crime and punishment' Raskolnikov's is fluctuated between two extreme poles of faith and doubt. In the novel 'The Idiot' Prince Myshik represents a figure of Christ and always tries to bring changes in society with his good deeds. In the periodical 'A writers Dairy, the death acts are not the reason for disbelief but some characters are strong in their belief of god. For some of them belief is also a reason to give up their life.

b. Atheism

Dostoevsky most certainly had a strong fear of atheism, being a stern Orthodox. Brothers Karamazov justifies his perspective flawlessly: it's not that atheists didn't believe in God because the question of their existence is absurd and pointless, but merely "didn't approve of their world". This was the reason why Dostoevsky believed suicide was the only solution for an unbeliever.

The battle between faith and reason resounds throughout Dostoevsky's fiction and finds its climax in many characters in his works. They are the only exception who is possibly the only characters to succeed in separating their life from their ideas. We comes to discovered that the supposed atheists, Ippolit in (The Idiot), Kirillov (The Demons), and Ivan are infact on the frontline of the battle between faith and reason. One of the arguments used against Atheism is that without God, Society loses all morals but surprisingly, Dostoevsky makes the point that human beings do not need God to create a moral society. Almost many characters who are victimized by the society are opted to death due to disbelief in these selected works.

5. Authenticity

What is authentic in all his works is I have noticed that a type of mental illness is mostly sounds in many of his works. He is the Well-known unsurpassed master of psychological novels. His works are unique. They are much un plagiarised. The genius of Dostoyevsky opened for the reader the writer's amazing ability latent sometimes horrifying and mystical depths of human's

nature. In his novels translated into the most languages of the world Dostoyevsky vigorously depicted human suffering, lives of poor people, strivings and delusions of his contemporaries.

A common theme in Dostoevsky's novels is the prevailing disorder in Russian society of the late nineteenth century. He is a realistic writer. All his works deal with real life incidences, banal activities, family life etc. His short stories exist in the shadows of his longer fiction.

Conclusion

This chapter deals with a comparative outlook of the writings of Dostoevsky and his contemporaries. It contains the Summing up of the findings

Dostoevsky mostly focuses on the works of Leo Tolstoy and Ivan Turgenev and tries to make a different attempt in his works when compared to their works. Death in the Tolstoyan interpretation of it is totally absent from Dostoevsky's world. In Dostoevsky there are considerably fewer deaths than in Tolstoy and in most cases Dostoevsky's deaths are murders and suicides. In Dostoevsky's world death finalizes nothing, because death does not affect the most important thing in this world. In Dostoevsky's world there are only murders, suicides, and insanity, that is, there are only death-acts, responsibly conscious..

I come to examines that the characters in my selected works are extremely suffering due to mental illness and unbearable emotions. Each character in the fiction is suffering due to any type of cause.

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