

ROLE OF METAPHORS IN "PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY"

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Anotation: *The Picture of Dorian Gray is a novel by Oscar Wilde that explores the relationship between art and life, morality, and the consequences of one's actions. The novel revolves around the character of Dorian Gray, a young man who becomes obsessed with his own beauty and youth. Dorian's portrait is painted by an artist named Basil Hallward, who becomes infatuated with him. When Dorian makes a wish that he could remain young forever while his portrait ages instead, his wish is granted. As the years pass, Dorian becomes increasingly corrupt and immoral, while his portrait reveals the true ugliness of his soul.*

Key words: *metaphor, metonymy, socio-pragmatics, figurative language, stylistics, speech acts.*

One of the key literary devices used in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is metaphor. Metaphors are comparisons between two unlike things that help to convey a deeper meaning or message. In this novel, metaphors are used to explore themes such as beauty, morality, and corruption.

One of the most prominent metaphors in the novel is that of Dorian's portrait. The portrait serves as a physical manifestation of his soul and reflects the true nature of his character. As Dorian becomes more corrupt and immoral, the portrait becomes more grotesque and ugly. This metaphor highlights how our actions can have lasting consequences on our character and how we are perceived by others.

Another important metaphor in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is that of art itself. Throughout the novel, art is portrayed as both beautiful and dangerous. Basil Hallward's painting of Dorian captures his youth and beauty but also serves as a reminder of his corrupted soul. Similarly, Lord Henry Wotton's influence on Dorian's life is likened to an artist shaping their canvas. This metaphor underscores how our perceptions can be manipulated by art or those who create it.

The use of metaphors in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* also helps to explore questions about morality and ethics. For example, Lord Henry frequently uses metaphors to justify his amoral philosophy. He compares life to a work of art, arguing that one should seek pleasure and beauty above all else. However, the novel ultimately suggests that such a philosophy is dangerous and leads to corruption.

In addition to exploring these themes, the use of metaphors in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* also adds depth and complexity to the characters and their

relationships. For example, the metaphor of art serves as a lens through which to view Dorian's relationships with Basil and Lord Henry. Basil's portrait captures both Dorian's beauty and his corruption, reflecting his conflicting emotions towards him. Similarly, Lord Henry's manipulative influence over Dorian is likened to an artist shaping their canvas.

In conclusion, the use of metaphors in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* plays a pivotal role in conveying its key themes and messages. Through the use of metaphors such as Dorian's portrait and art itself, the novel explores questions about beauty, morality, corruption, and the consequences of our actions. Moreover, these metaphors add depth and complexity to the characters and their relationships, making for a richly textured narrative that continues to captivate readers today.

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