



## Narrative Analysis of the Short Story the Nightingale and the Rose

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### ABSTRACT

The study is about a story well known short story called "The Nightingale and the Rose" by Oscar Wilde. The story tries to understand how Wilde wrote and what make it so effectual. The story breaks into parts using Roland Barthes five codes and described how Oscar created the scenario of the story. Let's shed light on the story and see what is interesting in it. Let's figure out how story works. The Roland Barthes model of five codes described further in my article and using these codes I will further shed light on my story. Touched by the desperation of story, the nightingale and the rose resolves to believe in the purity of love. The Nightingale and the Rose serves as the timeless reminder of such heartfelt sacrifices. The sacrifice of Nightingale considered as the selfless sacrifice within the story. The red rose provide the student to move ahead but the woman considers jewels more expensive than rose she rejects both the student and red rose. The discontented student throws the red rose in to the gutter because he was guilty. Through this story author shows the disparities of Victorian society where love often depended on materialistic things in society.



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## INTRODUCTION

Humans are fond of storytelling and it is very fundamental. We have been listening stories from our parents since childhood but now the stories evolved in to new perspectives like poetries, novels and much more. The story aims to analyze the short story by Oscar Wilde. In this story we see how Oscar put together different perspectives to illustrate ideas. We used Barthes codes model to help us understand easily. This story will help you to understand what Oscar was trying to do with this story and why it is so excitable. This story is about a nightingale and a student who fall in love with a girl but she is so stubborn, inane and selfish. This distinguished story

revolves around the theme of love, sacrifice and the fleeting nature of beauty. In a wide garden a young student searching for a red rose, but unfortunately he has no red rose in his garden to present his dear one who has promised for dance if he can cop one. A nightingale, moved from there as she has always sympathy with lovers, she is always searching for a chance to help lovers in a relationship, so decided to make an ultimate sacrifice to create a red rose without worrying about her life because she believes love is more precious than a birds common life . The story's fearful beauty and philosophical undergoes a timeless classic throughout the era.

The short which I selected for my narrative analysis is written by Oscar Wilde a prominent Irish writer, he is best known for his short stories, a distinguished author and writer regarded as the one of the greatest playwrights of Victorian Era. His work often explores the themes of love, beauty and the human circumstances .One of the notable collection and most celebrated short stories "The Nightingale and the Rose" is a powerful tale that revolves into theme of love, sacrifice, beauty and selfishness. This masterpiece was published in 1888, it tells the story of a nightingale who sacrifices her life for a student just for his little happiness by creating a red rose .Through his poignant tale he revolves everything in an appropriate way ,he put together different elements of symbolism, mythology and philosophical inquiry and depth .We will examine the symbolic significance of the rose and the nightingale, the students desire for a red rose and beloved indifference and the heart touching sacrifice .Through our discussion we will gain a better understanding of Wilde masterpiece and storytelling that continue to inspire people throughout the world and motivate the readers. The student desire for a red rose in the story serves as the force to present his dear one. Through this story Wilde examines the societal expectations and rituals of the Victorian England.

By using Roland Barthes five codes model we can take a deeper look how Oscar Wilde tells his story in a symbolic way .We can further see how he uses symbols and devices to make the story more interesting .This will help us to comprehend how this story is very prominent and read by many people today throughout the world.

In" The Nightingale and the Rose" I use the Roland Barthes five model codes that are Hermeneutic code (HER), Proiaretic code (ACT), Semantic code (SEM), Symbolic code (SYM) and Cultural code (REF).To understand this story in a better way let's use these five model codes in this narrative story.

1. **The Hermeneutic Code (HER):** The Hermeneutic code refers to something within the text that is enigma, cryptic. For instance, why the nightingale sacrifice her life even though she knows she could not get anything in return? This creates uncertainty and keep us assuming till end.
2. **Proiaretic Code (ACT):** The Proiaretic code refers to applies any action that implies a further narrative action. For instance, the yellow rose demands for producing red rose on one condition what leads nightingale to do this task?
3. **Semantic Code (SEM):** The semantic code refers to something within a text means something often has multiple meanings like nightingale means "a brownish European songbird" but she does not have a positive ending.
4. **Symbolic Code (SYM):** The symbolic code best defined the thematic or structural devices like the association of the rose with love and passion, and the nightingale with music, singing and poetry.

5. **Cultural code (CUL):** The cultural code refers to the cultural experiences, knowledge and values of the reader, like in the story cultural code is association of tradition of courtly love and the sacrifice for love

By analyzing Ronald Barthes five codes we easily uncover the deeper meanings and structures present in the story. Using these codes author's message and the cultural context in which the story is written.

### **Problem Statement**

The short story by Oscar Wilde "The Nightingale and the Rose" tells the readers a tale filled with symbolism, meaningful motifs and themes, and structural allegories that can be discussed in detail. Nevertheless, the dualistic focus of conventional cultural analyses of the novel can be deconstructed by means of adopting a concept from Barthes regarding the position of the reader. This research proposal seeks to analyze the use of Barthes's narrative codes in "The Nightingale and the Rose" and demonstrate how the application of these codes to this work will reveal the true complexity of Wilde meaning and his discontent with Victorian philosophy.

### **Research Question**

- 1) How does Barthes' Narrative Codes function in *The Nightingale and the Rose* to make the narrative coherent piece of fiction?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The approaches involved in the analysis of structured texts seek to highlight message in addition to the relativity of a story by dissecting stories and laying emphasis on structures, themes and symbols within a story. The narrative interpretation has been studied with regard to "The Nightingale and the Rose" by Oscar Wilde frequently with reference to its symbolism within themes.

### **Symbolism and Themes**

Symbolism that Wilde employs in "The Nightingale and the Rose" is one of the most debated elements of the works of the author. Citing Robbins (1988), the nightingale represents self-sacrificial love and art, which is quite different from the characters who are portrayed by selfishness and shallowness. The rose that nightingale turns herself into symbolize the impossibility of pure love, and aesthetics of suffering (Robbins 1988).

Along the same vein, Ellmann (1987) raises the issue of unrequited love as the main plot of the story told by Wilde. Firstly, the student pursues the service of the rose solely to achieve the goal of gaining the love of the object of his desire, which shows a rather shallow concept of love. This theme is further underlined by the final rebuff which shows the discrepancy between the romantic love and real-life experience (Ellmann, 1987).

### **Narrative Structure**

In Schaffer's opinion, Wilde is right, although the contrast between the nightingale and the student is made at the end of the novel, it gives a beautiful tragedy to the whole story. Speaking of the simultaneous vision, this approach helps the readers realize the depth of the nightingale's sacrifice, and the pointlessness of the student's pursuit (Schaffer, 1991).

In addition, Becker (1994) examines irony and foreshadowing as specific elements of the plot within the work of Wilde. The hopefulness of the nightingale's self-sacrifice is retroactively called into question by the carelessness with which the student treats the rose, which he throws away once he does not get the superficially desired result. Thus, this irony is used to make a commentary on the triviality of most values upheld in society, and the fact that the true worth of a person's sacrifice is unacknowledged (Becker, 1994).

### **Critical Reception**

Killeen has noted that, on the one hand, this is the chief virtue of the deturfiction of Oz as it addresses contemporary readers with a moral lesson while, on the author's own admission, it is its drawback as well: 'It tells the children that their opinions on the modern values are correct, but can hardly be called an entertainment' 2007. But Killeen (2007) also states that, on the same note, Wilde's lyrical writing, his propensity for rich symbolism brings the story to a higher realm of a classic piece of literature.

However, Mighall (1999) notes that Wilde transforms the parable to the moralistic themes through a rich characterisation and emotive nature. Symbolism of the nightingale's decision and the student's defeat symbolize experiences that are metaphysical and profound, making audiences think of love, sacrifice, and life (Mighall, 1999).

Many scholars have conducted conscientious research on "The Nightingale and the Rose" from literary and philosophical perspective some of the class-based difference and altruism mentioned in the story As for as wide symbolic meanings it exemplified the symbolic meaning of nightingale to illustrate Wildes artistic perspectives contrasting this with the previous masterpiece Ode to Nightingale by John Keats and the heartwarming meaning of red rose discussed in the paper. Wilde analyzed the direct conflict between aestheticism and utilitarianism. This shows the bitter reality on materialistic things which annihilate the purity of love. From here the indifference and harsh reality of the society at that era were explicitly displayed. The Nightingale and the Rose is a mesmerizing and heartbreaking masterpiece about the nature of love and sacrifice. At the starting of the story both lovers give us the scenario that the love between student and girl is true, but later it turns out to be confusing one based on materialistic things and selfishness. At the end of the story student give up his love because it was not true from both sides but based on egoistical selfishness and materialistic things.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This study uses qualitative research, which is specific types of narrative analysis, to examine Oscar Wilde's work, "The Nightingale and the Rose." Exploring the choice of the research method, it is important to explain that qualitative research is particularly appropriate in this case because it can offer detailed analysis of the text, and use the notions of themes, symbols and so on.

### **Data Collection**

Therefore, the nature of this research means that primary data is derived from the text of "The Nightingale and the Rose". Secondary data collection includes professional articles, books, and critiques that present authors' multiple perspectives and analyses of works by Wilde. These

secondary sources will be employed as background information in order to merely support or dispute the facts gathered from the text analysis.

### **Data Analysis**

In the theory of narrative analysis, the analysis for this paper uses content analysis to establish and explain figures in the story.

### **Theoretical Framework**

Thus, the theoretical foundation of this research is based on the theory of narrative codes by Roland Barthes, elaborated in S/Z. Barthes proposed five narrative codes that can be used to deconstruct and analyze texts: there are five forms of analysis which includes hermeneutic, proairetic, cultural, semantic, and symbolic. These are general codes that offer direction on how to look at the structural features and semantics the narratives are made out of.

**Hermeneutic Code (Enigma Code):** This code is related to aspects of the plot that produce uncertainty or make the audience ask questions. Despite their formal titles, the reversal of the two motifs of the story also poses an enigma as to what kind of revelation the story will contain.

**Proairetic Code (Action Code):** This code depends with events that belong to it as well as the acts of the storyline. Explaining the details of the Wilde's story, it would be possible to emphasize that the nightingale's action to make a red rose is an important element in the plot.

**Cultural Code (Referential Code):** This code uses cultural data and norms of the society. The novel by Wilde can be considered in terms of the following socium and its Ethics: the Victorian era had a significant impact on the principals of the characters' behavior and their perception of the world.

**Semantic Code:** This code is the secondary level where extra-aesthetic information exists, based on characters' relationships and what they say to each other. All the semantic implications are concentrated in the nightingale's sacrifice and the student's reaction to it.

**Symbolic Code:** This code relates to the analysis of semiotic connotations of symbols and metaphors used in the plot. Therefore, the rose symbolizes love, the nightingale symbolizes sacrifice, and the gestures of the characters are associated with the contrast between the beautiful and the painful.

For the purposes of this study, this paper uses the concepts of Barthes' narrative codes in order to provide the systematic critical dissection of "The Nightingale and the Rose" to show how Wilde builds up his themes and messages using these the structural elements of the story. This theoretical approach enables analyzing the text in many directions; thus, one can receive a more profound interpretation of the structure and topics of the text.

### **Data Analysis**

#### **The Hermeneutic Code (HER):**

The Hermeneutic Code, as proposed by Roland Barthes, refers to the code of interpretation which involves uncovering the meanings and enigma within a story. In the Hermeneutic code, things can be applied to various interpretive layers:

#### **Enigma of the Nightingale's sacrifice:**

The story develops questions about the nightingale's motivation and the reason behind her sacrifice. The readers interpret the meaning of nightingale by her selfless actions and symbolism of her death.

**Mystery of students Desire:** The student desire for red rose is presented as a force but the reasons behind this force is unclear. The readers must interpret the student's motivation in relation to beloved.

**The Proairetic Code (PRO):**

The proairetic code builds suspense, referring to amplifying action that creates another narrative action in the text that creates a sense of anticipation.

**Turning of white rose into red rose:**

When the rose fails to turn red because the student reject to give up his love for the professor's daughter it creates a significant turn that what will happen now.

**The Semantic Code (SEM):**

The semantic code points to any element in text that suggests a particular meaning by way of connotation. The semantic code refers to something within the text that give a particular meaning.

**The Nightingale:** The Nightingale decides to give up her life and willing to create a red rose through an ultimate sacrifice for the happiness of the boy.

**The Student:**

The Student represents the stubborn and idealistic youth, he is focusing on shallow beauty and does not appreciate true beauty it leads to anticipation that why he is doing this.

**Symbolic Code (SYM):**

The symbolic code refers to the level of narrative where the story's themes, ideologies are encoded through symbols, metaphors or allegories.

**The Nightingale:**

The Nightingale symbolizes the pure selfless love and sacrifice. She is willing to give up in order to create a red rose for a student to win his beloved heart.

The Girl character shows the vanity, materialism and selfishness, she is desire to have a red rose as a sign of affection but she rejected when he present her a red rose with the pure bottom of the heart. Her character shows the selfishness around the society and inability to recognize beauty and nature.

**The Cultural Code (CUL):**

The cultural code refers to the cultural experience and broader societal within the story.

**Victorian Morality:**

The story reflects on the rigid moral values of Victorian society where love and romance were often constrained by unnatural societal expectations and propriety. The student's pursuit for red rose to win his beloved heart reflects the importance of rituals during the era.

### **Class Divide Difference:**

The student's inability to afford a red rose shows the class differentiation in Victorian era. The Girl's brush off his affection due to the lack of suitable gift underscores the importance of social wealth and materialistic things in relationships nowadays.

### **DISCUSSION**

By analyzing the story through Roland Barthes model of five codes you can get a better understanding through symbols and meanings.

The hermeneutic code, similarly to the enigma code, is most applicable here– “The Nightingale and the Rose” is heard with an implied finale of a full reveal, which is in fact the main purpose of the code. This code leads to the readers to enter the story as a search for meaning and enlightenment regarding sacrifice and love. Thus, Wilde applies this code to build a specific expectation, as well as interest in deeper philosophical and existential aspects of the work.

In Barthesian semiotics, the proairetic code relates with actions and events in the story that lead to the development of anomy. The nightingale is a disguised VGA whose sacrifice is to retrieve the rose for the student and reduce his suffering, while the student's purpose is to obtain a red rose for his beloved. This code reveals that the course of the characters is predestined by their vices and ideas, ensuring the play's tragic message.

The aspects of culture in “The Nightingale and the Rose” embody and depict the Victorian culture and hence it guides the understanding of the characters' actions and struggles. Wilde as a social commentator uses the materialistic nature of the society to accentuate the student's seeming search for romantic love through the rose. The plot reveals the tragedy of the opposition of the generation's ideal and passionless thoughts and greedy and conservative instincts. It is clear from this analysis that Barthes' framework offers a way of understanding the empirical nature of these aspects of culture and losing sight of the theoretical emphasis of the tale and other critiques of Victorian society which it contains.

Elements of the semantic code that Barthes postulated are significant in order to explain how language and dialogue in “The Nightingale and the Rose” is semiotically charged. This depicts Vingtième's meaning beneath the literal dialogue that was created by Andrea De La Vigne between the nightingale and the rosebush and a student. These are core aspects of the human experience and set up the major textual issues of the film: self-sacrifice, disillusionment, and the eternal search for beauty. Thus, thanks to the syntactic and especially the semantic code, Barthes' analytical approach reveals true conflicts and contradictions, concealed in characters' psyche, and thereby intensifies recognition of their psychological layers.

The second and final component of Barthes text is the symbolic concept that tries to dissect symbols and the true meaning behind metaphors and icons. In “The Nightingale and the Rose,” the bird is both the nightingale, which indicates love's altruism and artistic giving of self, and the rose that is symbolic of one's pursuit of doomed, romantically idealistic love. These symbols are imbued for meaning in allegory, which would only point out Wilde's satire on the society and the comedy of the human existence.

## CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the story “The Nightingale and the Rose” in the Barthesian analysis contains the two codes more important as rest of three codes. The Cultural Code and The Symbolic Code considers more authentic and meaningful in the story as first hermeneutic code which is given short emphasis than two codes, this code has very short discussion in my story. The Symbolic code is defined in a denotational way and it can be had in a wider context. At the conclusion of narrative analysis I have uncovered following key perspectives: The Story is critique of the shallowness of human nature, being stubborn and cruel towards nature of love. The Story focus on the symbolism, irony, and imagery to convey the deepness of the story. The Nightingale’s sacrifice shows the selfless love and empathy towards human beings while the student’s desire represents selfish and egoistical. In short,” The Nightingale and the Rose “is a poignant tale that continue to inspire people offering a chance of human experience. Thus two human who depends on nature for fulfilling a personal desire disappoints the nightingale by treating her gift in a callousness manner that no one can even imagine. Wilde illustrates the Victorian era and the callousness of people towards materialistic things.

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