



CRITICAL READING OF EGOISM AND ITS IMPACTS ON HUMAIN BEINGS' PROMOTIONS THROUGH GEORGE
ELIOT'S *DANIEL DERONDA*

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Abstract

Contrary to the common belief, egoistic behaviours like other behaviours may be profitable or unprofitable for individuals as well as for some of their neighbours depending on circumstances. Some of the advantages in the novel are admiration, determination, self-confidence; optimism, dignity, happiness, self-adjustment, curiosity whereas certain of the disadvantages are arrogance, rebellions, heartlessness, unhappiness, criminality, sorrow, etc. So if an egoist can adjust his behaviours to some new situations, he can greatly participate in his country and continent's development. It is apparent then that an egoist may be ambitious which presupposes he has to have the self-motivation necessary to reach some important goals. When submitted to Freud's psychoanalysis, the conclusion turns out to be that an egoist can be well integrated in a society and contribute to his country, continent and world's development if he is capable of self-adjustment. This is the positive side of egoism which also has its drawbacks in *Daniel Deronda*.

Key words: egoism, advantage, participates, drawbacks, ambitious.

Résumé

Dans le roman intitulé *Daniel Deronda*, George Eliot a montré que l'égoïsme comme tout comportement humain peut avoir ces avantages aussi bien que des inconvénients. Après avoir clarifié le concept de l'égoïsme, ces deux types d'impacts sont mentionnés, à savoir, l'admiration, la détermination, la confiance en soi, l'optimisme, la dignité, le bonheur, l'adaptation, la curiosité en ce qui concerne le premier type et arrogance, la rébellion, le manque de pitié, la désapprobation, le malheur, la criminalité, la tristesse dans la vie quotidienne de Gwendolen. Il est donc montré que si un égoïste peut ajuster ses comportements, à certaines nouvelles situations, il peut largement participer au développement de son pays, de son continent et du monde en général. Il est donc évident qu'un égoïste peut être ambitieux, ce qui présuppose qu'il faille qu'il ait une incitation personnelle, nécessaire à l'atteinte de certains objectifs. Quand l'on applique la psychanalyse de Freud à sa situation, on retient qu'un égoïste peut s'intégrer dans la société et contribuer au développement s'il peut s'adapter aux nouvelles conditions de vie. Voilà le côté positif de l'égoïsme qu'elle a mis en exergue à travers Gwendolen dans le roman *Daniel Deronda*. Mais elle a aussi montré l'incapacité d'un égoïste à s'adapter à certaines situations auxquelles un être humain raisonnable aurait pu s'accommoder.

Mots clés : égoïsme, avantage, participer, inconvénients, ambitieux.

Introduction

Naturally speaking girls and women do not dare say or do some activities. But in *Daniel Deronda*, Gwendolen Harleth has asked herself, when she is in the gambling room: “such things had been known of male gamblers; why should not a woman have a like supremacy?”(E, George, 1876, P.6). Such a question suggests the girl’s strong desire to do things which only boys or men have the privilege to do. It is important to note that her determination and courage to adopt such a posture has nothing wrong with it.. As a result, she believes that the barrier between the two sexes can be removed. From her question, one may also say that she thinks she can do things better than anyone else. It is probably her belief when she has shown herself an exceptional girl through the novel. In this situation she may be called an egoistic girl. But her amazed exploits in the novel allow to say that egoism should not totally be blamed. The very fact that egoism should not be totally blamed implies that it has to have a counterbalance, which is to act upon a constant ego check, without which, depending on the circumstances it will ruin individuals, then society... The real issue to deal with, it’s worth noting, lies in how she controls her inner evil drives, how far she is willing to submit her ambitions to the thorough check of the inner universal Light that(if the individual lets Him) dwell in every human soul. Thus, after I have dealt with the concept of egoism, I will focus on its advantages and disadvantages in the novel.



1. The Concept of Egoism

According to *Chambers Universal Learners' Dictionary*, egoism is the consideration of oneself before others. Thus, it can be noticeable through some behaviours such as selfishness, self-assertion, self-indulgence etc.

1.1. The Concept of Selfishness in *Daniel Deronda*

According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary Ninth Edition*, selfishness is the fact of caring only about yourself rather than about other people. One can say that Gwendolen is a selfish girl as she has told her mother about her own marriage in words that fully give out her self-centered mindset: "I will not put up with it if it is not a happy state. I am determined to be happy-at least not to go on muddling away my life as other people do, being and doing nothing remarkable. I have made up my mind not to let other people interfere with me as they have done." (E. George, 1876, P.22). The above passage points out the fact that Gwendolen does not want to lead any miserable life. Besides, she wishes to be an exceptional girl who can succeed in her life without any outside help. Her strange nature is also mentioned by George Eliot when she writes about her:

"There were many subjects in the world-perhaps the majority-in which she felt no interest, because they were stupid; for subjects are apt to appear stupid to the young as light seems dim to the old ; but she would not have felt at all helpless in relation to them if they had turned up in conversation." (E, George, 1876, P.32).

The passage underlines her indifference to the majority of the daily subjects. It also suggests her ignorance which may be due to the fact that she does not have the opportunities to get information about the subjects or she has no will to get this information. It is also the proof of her strong desire for creativity. Thus, it can be admitted that she is not ready to accept what other people have agreed on.

1.2. Self-assertion

According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary Ninth Edition*, self-assertion is the fact of being very confident and not afraid to express your opinion. Gwendolen's fearlessness is noticeable in her family where she is the only one who gives orders:

"If you have laid out what we want, go and see the others, Bugle. I will help mamma." (E, George, 1876, P.21). The day the family has arrived at their new rented house at Offendene, Gwendolen is giving orders so that the rooms could be cleaned. Everybody including her four sisters, the housekeeper, Startin's wife, the lady maid, Bugle and her mother Fanny Davilow, has to obey her orders. George Eliot has written: "mamma, the four sisters, and the governess all looked at Gwendolen, as if their feelings depended entirely on her decision" (E, George, 1876, P.19).

The above sentence reveals that everything in the house depends on Gwendolen's will. But does she have the necessary abilities to rule fairly all the family? Is she not falsely imposing herself? As a girl of twenty, it is likely she is not yet equipped enough to master all the subjects related to a family life. This lack of flexibility and fear her self-assertiveness, which is the mark of her egoism. Another aspect of her egoism is undeniably her self-indulgence, which is developed in the following section.

1.3. The Concept of Self-indulgence in the Novel.

According to *Chambers Universal Learner's Dictionary*, self-indulgence is the fact of being too ready to satisfy one's own desires. Thus, Eliot depicts Gwendolen's readiness to satisfy her own desires as she makes her uncle Gascoigne know:

"I should like it of all things. There is nothing I enjoy more than taking aim-and hitting" (E, George, 1876, P.26). Gwendolen's uncle, Gascoigne has asked her if she agrees to be a member of their Archery Club-the brackenshaw Archery Club. To the question, Gwendolen gives a joyful answer. This means she is too eager to participate in the Club. The way she answers the question lets suggest she will not mind playing a great role in the Club. It also seems that she will like to become one of the leaders of the group. In the same way, she is not able to hide her eagerness to get a horse. As she urges her mother to talk to her uncle Gascoigne about getting a horse:

"Mamman, you have not spoken to my uncle about my riding, said Gwendolen.

- Gwendolen desires above all things to have a horse to ride - a pretty, light, lady's horse. Do you think we can manage it?" her mother has asked Gascoigne. (E, George, 1876, P.27). Although Gwendolen, an orphan daughter is aware that her mother Fanny Davilow cannot afford to buy a horse she is forcing her to talk to her uncle about it. This means she does not pity her mother to some extent.

2. The Advantages and the Disadvantages of Egoism in *Daniel Deronda*

2. 1. The Advantages of Egoism in *Daniel Deronda*

Like any other behaviours, egoistic behaviours may have some advantages. Let find out some of them in *Daniel Deronda*.

2.1.1. Admiration in the Novel

Her mother, for instance before taking any decision or doing anything also consults her:

"Well, dear, what do you think of the place?" Said her mother at last, in a gentle deprecatory tone.

"I think it is charming," said Gwendolen, quickly. "A romantic place anything delightful may happen in it; it would be a good background for anything. No one need be ashamed of living here. There is certainly nothing common about it". (E, George, 1876, P.19).

Fanny Davilow, before accepting a house at offendene, has sought Gwendolen's approval. It is likely that she believes that her elder daughter, Gwendolen is able to know the house that can be suitable for them .But by

asking this question, is the mother concerned with the whole family's happiness or only with Gwendolen's well-being? As the elder daughter, Gwendolen seems to have some influence on her mother. She surely has a great influence on other people by the way she does things or the way she reacts regarding some particular situations... When Miss. Marry, the meek governess says: "Gwendolen will not rest without having the world at her feet" (E, George, 1876, P.31). She is probably saying that Gwendolen is admired by a lot of people. But when the author writes: "she meant to do what was pleasant to herself in a striking manner; or rather, whatever she could do so as to strike others with admiration and get in that reflected way a more ardent sense of living, seemed pleasant to her fancy." (E, George, 1876, P.31), she is surely trying to tell us know that Gwendolen acts according to her taste by doing what is good for herself but in an attractive manner. So, one can notice through her speech that the girl does not take into account other people's needs. In other words, she only takes care of her own needs, which is indicative of her selfishness. But it can be noticeable despite the fact that she qualifies many things as stupid, people do not probably criticize her. That's likely what the author means when she writes:

The above speech shows that in spite of Gwendolen's selfishness people are interested in her and what she is doing both in her family and outside her house. This supposes that what matters for her is not what people are saying or doing, but the way she is saying or doing things. So the lesson one can draw here, is: say or do whatever you like but in a striking way. George Eliot has even written: "Always she was the princess in exile, who in time of famine was to have her breakfast-roll made of the finest-bolted flour from the seven thin ears of wheat, and in a general decampment was to have her silver fork kept out of the baggage." (E, George, 1876, P.32).

Analyzing the above passage, it can be said that Gwendolen is dearly loved at home. One can also notice that she is well fed and everything is done for her at home. But as she makes no effort and everything is given to her, she probably risks becoming a spoiled girl and her selfishness will be worsened. Under such a situation, she should be determined to achieve her goals.

2.1.2. Determination in the Novel

One of Gwendolen's wishes is to be an extraordinary girl. As a self-assertive girl it can be said that she always has the courage to overcome difficult situations.

The sentence below is a proof for her determination: "her impulse was to survey and resist the situation rather than to wail over it." (E, George, 1876, P.11). Gwendolen's sudden strong will is to inspect and resist what is going on and not to cry over it. The sentence also shows her determination to dominate the situation she is facing. However being ready to face any problem at any time seems not to be a good behaviour. In other words in her determination, Gwendolen may risk losing her life.

The following passage also underlines her determination in the same way;

"Other people allowed themselves to be made slaves of, and to have their lives blown hither and thither like empty ships in which no will was present: it was not to be so with her, she would no longer be sacrificed to creatures worth less than herself, but would make the very best of the chances that life offered her, and conquer circumstance by her exceptional cleverness." (E, George, 1876, P.31).

The above passage shows Gwendolen is against submission. Obviously her rebellious behaviours will probably help her get some freedom which can enable her to reach some of her goals. In addition, this courageous determination may be profitable for some fearful people. Nevertheless, this behaviour which can help her brave some dangers, may cause lack of respect for her in the community. The author has said about her:

“Her ideal was to be daring in speech and reckless in braving dangers, both moral and physical; and though her practice fell far behind her ideal, this shortcoming seemed to be due to the pettiness of circumstances, the narrow theatre which life offers to a girl of twenty, who cannot conceive herself as anything else than a lady, or as in any position which would lack the tribute of respect. She had no permanent consciousness of other fetters, or of more spiritual restraints, having always disliked whatever was presented to her under the name of religion, in the same way that some people dislike arithmetic and accounts:” (E, George, 1876, P.51).

This is to highlight Gwendolen's courageous moves to take risk as well as her bravery to face the possible results of her actions. But one can notice through the passage that she has not yet had the necessary means to reach her goal. This brings about the reality of the fact that the living conditions are one of the obstacles to her determination. But in her egoistic behaviour she is always determined to reach her goals. She has for instance told Klesmer as far as her dream to become an artist is concerned:

“I am quite prepared to bear hardships at first. Of course no one can become celebrated all at once. And it is not necessary that everyone should be first-rate either actresses or singers. If you would be so kind as to tell me what steps I should take, I shall have the courage to take them. I don't mind going up hill. It will be easier than the dead level of being a governess. I will take any steps you recommend.” (E, George, 1876, P.217).

One can say that Gwendolen is ready to support any difficulties. It is also noticeable that she is aware of some achievable goals. As she is asking for Klesmer's help and is ready to follow his recommendations, it is thinkable that she is not egoist. So, he has adjusted her behaviour to the situation. George Eliot is showing the complexity of human nature. But the achievement of anything is not possible if we are not self-confident.

2.1.3. Self -Confidence in *Daniel Deronda*

Through Gwendolen's behaviours, light is shed on her strong belief in her own abilities. The author has said about her:

“Gwendolen on her spirited little chestnut was up with the best, and felt as secure as an immortal goddess, having, if she had thought of risk, a core of confidence that no ill luck would happen to her. But she thought of no such thing, and certainly not of any risk there might be for her cousin.” (E, George, 1876, PP.58-59).

This passage suggests that she believes in her capacities and thinks she will not be a victim of any bad luck. So, one can say that she is optimistic.

2.1.4. Optimism throughout *Daniel Deronda*

Gwendolen thinks any achievement is possible. The author has mentioned:

“To Gwendolen’s temperament one success determined another. She trod on air, and all things pleasant seemed possible. The hour was enough for her, and she was not obliged to think of what she should do next to keep her life at the due pitch.” (E, George, 1876, P.87). This passage points out her unflinching positive belief in her future. She believes that getting every good thing is possible. She is consistently forgetful of eventual roadblocks to her very achievement of happiness.

The following passage shows that misfortune cannot worry her: “But she did not mean to submit, and let misfortune do what it would with her: she had not yet quite believed in the misfortune; but weariness, and disgust with this wretched arrival, had begun to affect her like an uncomfortable waking, worse than the uneasy dreams which had gone before.” (E, George, 1876, P.195). Although Gwendolen’s mother, Fanny Davilow has lost her fortune, Gwendolen believes it is not yet a problem. No doubt, her courage and optimism can help her mother who is miserable to forget about some of her problems. She even encourages her:

“Never mind, mamma dear”, said Gwendolen, tenderly pressing her handkerchief against the tears that were rolling down her mother’s cheeks. “Never mind. I don’t mind. I will do something. I will be something. Things will come right. It seemed worse because I was away. Come now! You must be glad because I am here” (E, George, 1876, P.196).

Analyzing the above passage, one can notice Gwendolen’s strong determination to overcome the difficult living situations which are prevailing in the family. One might think she will try by all means to provide her mother and her four sisters with the necessary needs to save her family’s dignity.

2.1.5. Dignity in the Novel

One of Gwendolen’s strong desires is to avoid her family’s disgrace. She tells her mother: «But I don’t resign myself to live at Sayer’s Cottage and see you working for sixpences and shillings because of that, I shall not do it: I shall do what is more befitting our rank and education» (E, George, 1876, P.199). Gwendolen is against her mother’s doing a non-remunerative job. She is also wishing to get a job suitable for her rank and education. Thus she refuses to work as a governess:

“Excuse me, mamma. There are hardships everywhere for a governess. And I don’t see that it would be pleasanter to be looked down on in a bishop’s family than in any other. Besides, you know very well I hate teaching. Fancy me shut up with three awkward girls something like Alice! I would rather emigrate than be a governess.” (E, George, 1876, P.199).

According to Gwendolen, being a governess will make the situation more difficult and unpleasant. She is probably thinking that she will not get enough money to meet her needs. Besides, she does not like teaching. So, she is expecting to do the job which will give her full enjoyment. Consequently, in her intention to get a good job, she goes and meets the actor Herr Klesmer:

“I wish to consult you, Herr Klesmer. We have lost all our fortune; we have nothing. I must get my own bread, and I desire to provide for my mamma, so as to save her from any hardship. The only way I can think of and I should like it better than anything is to be an actress to go on the stage. But of course I should like to take a high position, and I thought if you thought I could,” here Gwendolen became a little more nervous “it would be better for me to be a singer to study singing also” (E, George, 1876, P.215).

Gwendolen wishes to become an actress in order to get sufficient money to meet her own needs and help her family so that the family could not be disgraced. All this shows her sense of dignity. As a matter of fact, she will possibly bring happiness to her family.

2.1.6. Happiness in *Daniel Deronda*.

To live in a joyful situation may be said to be one of Gwendolen's best concerns. It is written about her:

“ And poor Gwendolen had never dissociated happiness from personal pre-eminence and “*éclat*”. That where these threatened to forsake her, she should take life to be hardly worth the having, cannot make her so unlike the rest of us, men or women, that we should cast her out of our compassion.” (E, George, 1876, P.233).

According to Gwendolen, happiness is a synonym of a high standard of life. So she believes that somebody who is unhappy has failed to reach the required standard. This suggests she will do her best to put herself as well as her family in the best living conditions. As she is already twenty years old, the best way to reach her goal is obviously to get a wealthy man as her lover. It is probably the reason why she has chosen the gentleman, Grandcourt as her husband. “He would rather make me put it on, than ask me to let him do it. Aha! He is very proud. But so am I. We shall match each other. I should hate a man who went down on his knees, and came fawning on me. He really is not disgusting” (E, George, 1876, P.264). Gwendolen is very happy. She believes that Grandcourt is the suitable marry for her and she is very proud to be his wife. Grandcourt is regarded as a perfect husband. So, later on, when some problems start to occur in Grandcourt's house, she tries to adapt herself to the new situation.

2.1.7. Self-adjustment throughout the Novel

In order to benefit from Grandcourt's good nature, Gwendolen is compelled not to make people know she is angry: "All she had to do now was to adjust herself, so that the spikes of that unwilling penance which conscience imposed should not gall her. With a sort of mental shiver, she resolutely changed her mental attitude." (E, George, 1876, P.277). After the marriage Gwendolen has to submit herself to her husband's orders. This new situation is very difficult for her to support because as a selfish woman, her early intention is to dominate Grandcourt but unfortunately, she has to obey her husband's orders. The following passage underlines how Gwendolen is managing to support the uneasy situation:

" Poor Gwendolen was conscious of an uneasy, transforming process all the old nature shaken to its depths, its hopes spoiled, its pleasures perturbed, but still showing wholeness and strength in the will to reassert itself. After every new sort of humiliation she tried to adjust herself and seize her old supports proud concealment, trust in new excitements that would make life go by without much thinking; trust in some deed of reparation to nullify her self-blame and shield her from a vague, ever-visiting dread of some horrible calamity; trust in the hardening effect of use and wont that would make her indifferent to her miseries." (E, George, 1876, P.362).

Gwendolen is trying to hide her anger. This concealment may be due to the fact that she is thinking of her poor family whom is now being financially helped by her husband. Perhaps it is also a shame for her to rebel because after her curiosity to know what marriage means, she is determined not to get married. But unfortunately, the misfortune which prevails in her family has forced her to get married.

2.1.8. Curiosity in the Novel.

At the age of sixteen, Gwendolen has the strong desire to know when people can get married. The following dialogue between her and her mother underlines her curiosity:

"Mamma, have men generally children before they are married?"
"No, dear, no" said the mother. "Why do you ask such a question?" (But she began to think that she saw the why.)
"If it were so, I ought to know," said Gwendolen, with some indignation.
"You are thinking of what I said about Deronda and Sir Hugo Mallinger. That is a very unusual case, dear"
"Does Lady Mallinger know?"
"She knows enough to satisfy her. That is quite clear, because Deronda has lived with them". (E, George, 1876, P.281).

Gwendolen is curious to know what is going on in sir Hugo Mallinger's family as far as marriage is concerned. She wants to know who is Daniel Deronda's mother and why she and sir Hugo Mallinger do not get married. Under her pressure, her mother is obliged to tell her that Daniel Deronda is Sir Hugo Mallinger's adopted son. An attempt to sum this up points to the fact that Gwendolen's egoism is revealed in her inborn desire to do things pleasant to her in a striking and exceptional way. But the admiration for her, her determination, her self-confidence, her optimism, her wish to bring dignity to herself and her family, the happiness she has got and her curiosity may be attributed to her egoism. So her selfishness, her self-assertion and self-indulgence have profited her and her neighbours to some extent, this, because she has been able to adjust her behaviours to some circumstances. But it is also noticeable that she has faced some problems.

2.2. The Disadvantages of Egoism in *Daniel Deronda*

Being egoist has made Gwendolen behave strangely. Some of the problems she has faced are the manifestation of arrogance, rebellious attitudes, being heartless, unhappy, criminal and sorrowful.

2.2.1 Arrogance in the Novel

Through some of Gwendolen's behaviours, one can say that she considers herself as better or superior to other people as far as her living conditions and making love are concerned. The following speech for instance lets say that she is not satisfied with her living conditions:

"She had disliked their former way of life, roving from one foreign-place or Parisian apartment to another, always feeling new antipathies to new suites of hired furniture, and meeting new people under conditions which made her appear of little importance; and the variation of having passed two years at a showy school, where on all occasions of display she had been put foremost, had only deepened her sense that so exceptional a person as herself could hardly remain in ordinary circumstances or in a social position less than advantageous." (E, George, 1876, P.17).

The above passage underlines that she does not agree to live in the same conditions as the other members of her family. It is the proof that she is against living in ordinary conditions. So, she likes to be exceptional which is not a good behaviour because she will probably ignore most of her neighbours who will reciprocally reject her. In addition, the fact that she always seeks advantageous positions will make it difficult for her to make a choice. She has even told her mother after she has agreed to marry Grandcourt: "He will declare himself my slave - I shall send him round the world to bring me back the wedding-ring of a happy woman - in the meantime all the men who are between him and the title will die of different diseases - he will come back Lord Grandcourt but without the ring - and fall at my feet. I shall laugh at him - he will rise in resentment - I shall laugh more" (E, George, 1876, P.79).

Gwendolen thinks that she can make Grandcourt her slave. So, she believes that when she is Grandcourt's wife, she will dominate him. Thus it can be admitted that her notion of marriage is power. In other words she is expecting not to submit herself to her husband's orders. But, later on when they get married, Grandcourt unfortunately notices that she is not a woman to manage easily:

"On the contrary, he believed that this girl was rather exceptional in the fact that, in spite of his assiduous attention to her, she was not in love with him; and it seemed to him very likely that if it had not been for the sudden poverty which had come over her family, she would not have accepted him. From the very first there had been an exasperating fascination in the trickiness with which she had not met his advances, but -wheeled away from them. She had been brought to accept him in spite of everything - brought to kneel down like a horse under training for the arena, though she might have an objection to it all the while." (E, George 1876, P. 269).

Grandcourt has noticed that in spite of the care he is taking for Gwendolen the latter is not inclined to show any affection. Then he starts to believe that Gwendolen is forced to marry him by the misfortune which has prevailed in her family. In other words, he is saying that Gwendolen is an opportunist. From that very moment, it is no wonder that Grandcourt will become distrustful towards his wife. As far as Gwendolen is concerned, it can be admitted that she believes that Grandcourt is an autocratic husband to whom she should not submit herself.

2.2.2. Gwendolen's Rebellious Attitudes in the Novel.

Since her girlhood, Gwendolen has been a rebel. She has asked her mother one day: "Why did you marry again, mamma? It would have been nicer if you had not." (E, George, 1876, P. 18). After Gwendolen's father death, Gwendolen's mother, Fanny Davilow has got married again and has given birth to four other girls. Gwendolen is not glad with her mother, thinking probably that if her mother has not done so, their living conditions may be better. She surely believes that marriage prevents women from getting some opportunities. In other words, she is thinking that marriage is one of the obstacles to women's development. It is obviously what she means when she has asked her mother the following two questions: "well but what is the use of my being charming, if it is to end in my being dull and not minding anything? Is that what marriage always boils down to?" (E, George, 1876, P. 22).

Gwendolen believes that a married woman has no freedom of speech. In addition, she has noticed that her mother is financially suffering in spite of her beauty. As she is as beautiful as her mother, she thinks she may face the same problem. Under such a situation, she is doubtful about getting married. Consequently, she has told her mother: "I don't know why I should do anything so horrible as to marry without that protection, at least." (E, George, 1876, P. 64) . Gwendolen wishes a man she will marry would offer her everything, especially a horse before marriage. But, his uncle Gascoigne opposes her wish saying that it is not fair to get whatever we want before marriage. His objection annoys Gwendolen who is telling her mother that she disagrees with her uncle. This behaviour shows her lack of affection for her mother's neighbours to certain degree.

2.2.3. Heartlessness in *Daniel Deronda*

For no good reason, Gwendolen thinks that it is better to dislike some of her neighbours. She tells her mother: "I shall never love anybody. I can't love people. I hate them." (E, George, 1876, P. 68). After she has refused Rex love, she suddenly becomes nervous as if somebody did her any wrong. This behaviour lets suggest she has some psychological problems. One can also think that she has received sexual education enough to deal with sexual issues. In another situation he has told Deronda: "Those people are not to be pitied. I have no sympathy with women who are always doing right. I don't believe in their great suffering." (E, George, 1876, P. 376). Her reaction is due to the fact that Deronda has told her that the Lapidoth is full of pity and seems capable of submitting to anything when it takes the form of duty and adds that one day she has been on the brink of drowning herself in despair. Through her reaction she has shown that she will not submit herself to any situation under any circumstances. This means she lacks the sense of justice. In other words, she will probably disapprove her neighbours in a wrong way.

2.2.4. Unhappiness in *Daniel Deronda*

Gwendolen, in her selfishness has made living conditions difficult for some of her neighbours and as well as for herself. As it is in her habit to be unsatisfied, Gwendolen has remained miserable even after her marriage to Grandcourt, a gentleman. But she thinks that Deronda's advice can relieve her mental sufferings after Grandcourt's tragic death. She tells him:

"You will not say that I ought to tell the world? you will not say that I ought to be disgraced? I could not do it. I could not bear it. I cannot have my mother know. Not if I were dead. I could not have her know I must tell you; but you will not say that anyone else should know."

(E, George, 1876, P. 591).

After Grandcourt's drowning, Gwendolen meets Deronda to make the latter know her sufferings. As she is begging Deronda not to disgrace her or tell anybody what she will tell him. This lets suppose that she feels partly guilty of her husband's death. Her speech also shows that she is uneasy and helpless. She has wished Grandcourt death, but after the latter's death, she is unhappy and does not know what she can do. Her unhappiness after Grandcourt's death lets suppose that her hateful behaviours towards him is only due to her egoism. This also suggests she has uncsciously or consciously wished her husband's death.

2.2.5. Criminality in the Novel

It is generally admitted intention is worth action. In this content, one can say that Gwendolen is responsible for her husband's death. The following passage shows her intention: "I should have prayed that he might sink out of my sight and leave me alone. I knew no way of killing him there, but I did, I did kill him in my thoughts." (E, George, 1876, P. 596). Gwendolen has intentionally caused her husband's drowning. Her behaviour has shown that she always wants to get rid of him and but she does not find the way to do so. But she does not wish her husband to die at her presence. Her intention to kill her husband can make say that she is not a good wife, otherwise she should have told him what is wrong. It even seems that she is pleased with her husband's death.

She gives her account for the death: "I saw him sink, and my heart gave a leap as if it were going out of me. I think I did not move. I kept my hands tight. It was long enough for me to be glad" (E, George, 1876, PP. 596).

The speech reveals that Gwendolen is an ambiguous woman as she is showing both happiness and regret after Grandcourt's death. Perhaps, she is thinking of Grandcourt's good nature towards both her family, herself, and of his autocratic power at the same time. She even tells Deronda: "If I had not had that murderous will that moment if I had thrown the rope on the instant perhaps it would have hindered death?" (E, George, 1876, PP. 598). Gwendolen acknowledges if she were not a wicked wife, she could save her husband. Thus her assertion also points out both her regret and her sadness.

2.2.6. Sorrow in *Daniel Deronda*

More than being unhappy, Gwendolen is overcome with grief before after her husband's death:

"Perhaps you don't quite know the beginning of it all," said Gwendolen, slow, as if she were overcoming her reluctance. "There was someone else he ought to have married. And I knew it, and I told her I would not hinder it. And I went away -that was when you first saw me. But then we became poor all at once, and I was very miserable, and I was tempted. I thought, I shall do as I like and make everything right. I persuaded myself. And it different. It was all dreadful. Then came hatred and wicked thoughts". (E, George, 1876, P. 599). She is telling Deronda how miserable she is even before her husband's death. So it is surely that her sadness is not due to Grandcourt's death. But it seems her bitterness has worsened with the husband's death. If not how can she tell Deronda:

"It impossible to think how my life will go on. I think now it would be better for me to be poor and obliged to work." (E, George, 1876, P. 600).

Gwendolen is uncertain about her future after her husband Grandcourt's death. As Grandcourt, in his life time is the one who has the responsibility to help financially her mother and her, it seems that she has started regretting his death. So it can be admitted that she is ruined by her own egoistic behaviours.

Conclusion

Generally speaking, a person considered as an egoist, is regarded as having a bad way of living. But the present research work has proved that being an egoist is not in all circumstances synonymous of being bad-natured. An egoist displays egoistic behaviours towards his/her relations. Thus, he/she largely takes part in the slow but sure destruction of society. Ego lies in the very centre of the human heart ministering failure or success depending on the person's internal drives. Thus it is necessary to avoid prejudice as it is mentioned in *Adam Bede*. "If you would maintain the slightest belief in human heroism, you must never make a pilgrimage to see the hero." (E, George, 1859, P.154). In other words, our interpretations should not lie in the surface. To reject totally egoism is to reject totally ambition which may be a driving force to reach some goals. However, being egoist should not

mean rejecting the pre-existent rules or insulting elderly people. In other words, we should avoid exaggerations in order to live with individuals in harmony in our societies. Through this present research, it is obvious to note how psychoanalytic theory applies to Gwendolen's situation. Her living conditions greatly displeased her. This made her develop a mindset of admiration, determination, self-confidence; optimism, dignity, happiness, self-adjustment, curiosity..., very essential virtues to great human lives that have ever existed. Unfortunately, those qualities got perverted because she developed the wrong mindset. Character flaws emerged throughout the text. Gwendolen got what she wanted at the end of the day, but wasn't prepared to face new challenges. Through his work, Eliot might well be trying to warn readers of the necessity to be realistic about our own expectations in life.

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