

## **Elements of Realism in Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* and Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge***

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### **Abstract**

This comparative study aims at applying William's (1961) *Theory of New Realism* to Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* (1948) and Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886). It consists of three parts. The first part focuses on the research questions and hypotheses as the two novels are social, descriptive and falling within the criteria of the new realistic novels. The second part provides a literature review about Williams' *Theory of New Realism* (1961) in contrast with the old and traditional realism applied in the 17th and 18th centuries. The objective of this comparative study is to investigate how far Paton and Hardy's novels are socio-descriptive and designed according to the terms of Williams' new realism. The methodological part focuses on the descriptive method in which the historical approach is used to reveal the way by which the two novels depict historical places, events and geographical features. The social approach is also used to document the general way of life in the English and African societies, reflecting the rapport between individual and the society. According to the findings of the study, both of the novels include comprehensive observation and highly advanced recording of events. Based on the results of the study, the social relations between characters were highlighted in every part of the two novels. The study also reveals a highly degree of alienation and self-exile in the ending of Paton and Hardy's realistic novels. The study recommends intensive reading about Williams theory of new realism as well as reviewing the writing techniques that associated with the social descriptive novel. Further studies on realism are significant to address the potential research problems.

**Keywords:** new realism, contemporary novel, social formula novel, personal novel.

## 1. Introduction

Realism was an artistic movement that rose in France at mid nineteenth century as a revolt against the romanticism which dominated France at the time. According to the "Glossary of Literary Terms(1999)"by Abrams, the movement of realism included Some writers such as Balzac in France, George Eliot in England and William Dean in America. While the movement of romanticism was based on portraying things as they seemed to be, realism was meant to show things as they were. Realism was applied by several novelists but some of them failed to apply the theory in a developed way. Watt (1957), mentions that literary realism of the eighteenth century writers such as Daniel Defoe,Richardson and Henry Fielding is traditional and limited viewing things from only one perspective. He goes further to state that writers of this kind have damaged the most original aspects of realism. Some critics emphasize that:

"The theory of naïve realism is the most primitive of the theories under discussion. It conceives of objects as directly presented to consciousness and precisely what they appear to be .Nothing intervenes between the Knower and the world external to him. Objects are not represented in consciousness by ideas ; they are themselves directly presented. This theory makes no distinction between seeing and being , things are just what they seem. Consciousness is thought of as analogue to a light which shines out through sense organs illuminating the world out side the know" (Montague, 2006:39)

Williams (1958)as well mentions that the old realism of 17<sup>th</sup> and18<sup>th</sup> centuries is static and traditional because it depends on limited observation and simple recordings. He goes further to say that novelists of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries have made a success in the application of literary realism because of their developed techniques in the process of writing. Today , realism needs revival in order to satisfy the demands of this changing world. Based on Williams' *Theory of New Realism* which he introduced in his article "*Realism and the contemporary novel(1958)*", new realism is always based on clear observation and comprehensive recordings of events. He divides the novel into social novel and personal one. Furthermore, the main aspects of the contemporary novel are isolation and self-exile. This study concentrates on Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* (1946)and Hardy's *The Mayor of*

*Casterbridge* (1886) since the two novels fall within the criteria of the contemporary realistic novel.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

Applying new realism in prose has emerged to be a problem especially in the field of social descriptive novel. The problem may occur due to the complexity of the theory itself. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>-century novelists use traditional realism while 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century writers apply new techniques when conducting the realist novel. The more challenging thing for novelists than applying realism is supervising the interest of the potential readers who like to experience something different. For example, *Bhen's Oroonoko* doesn't appeal to most of the readers nowadays. Furthermore, some critics have expressed their dissatisfactions with the old realism depicting it as something limited and primitive. For example, Watt (1957) mentions that 18<sup>th</sup> century novelists have failed to use realism in a proper way. Montague (1912) also depicts old realism as something limited because it views things from only one perspective. He indicates that:

*"The theory of naïve realism is the most primitive of the theories under Discussion. It conceives of objects as directly presented to consciousness and being precisely what they appear to be". (Montague, 1912:39)*

So, this study attempts to identify some aspects of new realism being used by Hardy and Paton in their respective novels. The study attempts to suggest some solutions and recommendations by the end of the project.

### **1.2 Aims of the Study**

The study aims to

1. identify the difficulties facing the novelists when they write realist novels.
2. broaden the horizon of novelists and researchers about the theory of New realism.
3. explore how far Paton and Hardy's novels fall within the criteria of new realistic novels.

### **1.3 Purpose of The Study**

The study is mainly conducted for the following reasons:

1. Firstly, Williams' new realism is still new and has never been well researched so far.
2. Secondly, the desire to conduct the study arises from the researcher's own experience of interviewing several qualitative researchers. To these researchers writing about a new form of realism is something they do not focus on. Therefore, it is important to conduct more

qualitative researches on Williams' new realism which might lead to effective ways of developing the contemporary realistic novel.

#### **1.4 Questions**

Williams'(1958) theory of new realism highlights the historical and geographical documentations in which observation is introduced throughout the descriptive novel. It also describes the ending of the contemporary novel as an open-ended process.

- 1.What type of documentations do Paton and Hardy's novels have?
2. How do Alan Paton and Thomas Hardy begin their novels?
3. To what extent do Hardy and Paton's novels use observation ?
4. Do Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge (1886)* and Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country*(1957) conclude their novels in a new realistic way?

#### **1.5 Hypotheses**

- 1.Paton and Hardy's novels use historical documentations of places and events.
- 2.Paton and Hardy begin their novels by depicting the general way of life
- 3.Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* and Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* use clear observation throughout their novels..
4. Paton's *Cry, the Beloved Country* and Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* end with a new realistic way.

#### **1.6Significance of the Study**

The results of this present study may hopefully help several novelists and young researchers to give it some thought when they design descriptive novels. The research findings might help literary critics and policy makers in making fruitful decisions

In addition, Williams' New realism has not been investigated in much detail so far. It is hoped that this study will contribute to this area by providing suggestions that may help broaden researchers' awareness and enrich their knowledge of this theory.

#### **1.7 Methodology**

The research paper uses the historical approach to trace the previous literary works regarding realism. In order to collect the required data, the researcher extracted some texts from the two different novels of Hardy and Paton. Then, by using the descriptive analytical research method and content analysis, data has been analyzed and assessed.

The study is categorized in to the following five sections :

- 1.Introductory chapter
2. Literature review
3. Methodology
4. Presentation and analysis of data
5. conclusion

### **1.8 Limits of the Study**

The study concentrates on the theory of new realism by Raymond Williams (1961). It includes Alan Paton's *Cry, the Beloved country* and Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. The two novels represent the European and African cultures.

### **2. Literature Review**

The theoretical frame work of this study is based upon Williams theory of new realism which he illustrated in his book "*The long revolution(1961)*". Williams argues that realism can be divided into two kinds: Oldrealism which is primitive and another one which is new and more advanced, comprehensive and dynamic. The plan of this current study comprises the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in contrast with the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The methodological part of this study discusses the methods and procedures being used to guide the project to persuasive findings and useful recommendations.

The basic structure of this current study is historical background about progress of the realistic novel from the 17<sup>th</sup> century up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The novel form as a genre witnessed variety of changes over the previous centuries and became the bridge through which cultures and thoughts of other nations could pass. Realism was going in parallel lines with historical events and therefore writers had to develop the writing techniques accordingly. Over the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries some of the great novelist in Britain attempted to introduce realism in their works. For example, the seventeenth century, the famous novels were Bhen's *Oroonoko*(1688) or *The Royal Slave*, Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*(1719), Fielding's *Tom Jones* (1749) and Richard son's *Pamela*(1740). Raymond Williams(1961) as a founder of new realism, is recognized as one of the most prominent figures in the literary criticism who has successfully illustrated the difference between the novels written by Richardson compared to the ones written by D.h. Lawrence and George Eliot. In his "*Long Revolution*"(1961), Williams points out that there is a big difference between the old and new realism. The old realism is depicted as simple, traditional and primitive whereas the new one is progressive and so dynamic. He introduces a new and updated definition for realism describing it as a progressive and revolutionary movement. He also criticizes the traditional methods of designing the descriptive novel. According to Williams, this type of new realism documents the time, setting and behavior of people towards one another. The realistic novel also goes in harmony with the economic and industrial conditions. Williams states that the contemporary novel, in this case, can be classified as social or personal, descriptive and dynamic; not heroic

or legendary tale. The author indicates that the contemporary novelists should reflect real life through different dimensions when conducting the narratives. The form of the novel changes over time to address every century, ranging from traditional and simple prose to an advanced realistic novel. For example, the process of writing in the 17<sup>th</sup> century is simple, primitive and associated with the rise of the middle class bourgeois and the renaissance period. Novels of this kind as Ben's "*The Royal Slaves*" and "*The Pilgrim's Progress (1678)*" by John Bunyan are merely reflections of the middle class ordinary values and concepts of life. As a result, realism in the eighteenth century is a revolution against the principles and views of the middle class. As an example of the 18<sup>th</sup> century domestic novels, is Austen's "*Pride and Prejudice (1813)*" as well as "*Sense and Sensibility*" Jane Austen's novels are no less than a revolution against the middle class values, (Williams, 1972).

As for the 19<sup>th</sup> century, realism becomes more developed business involving multi-dimensions. The realistic novel, during that period, depends on realistic themes and revolves around every day real events. It shows the psychological positions of the Victorian age such as Virginia Woolf's "*Mrs. Dalloway (1925)*" in which she applies the stream of consciousness. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century writers use mature realism which has an access to society and becomes more forceful active and descriptive. The social realism of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has the sense of fidelity to psychological reality. Things are shown as realistic without restrictions or terms.

### **3. Methodological Section**

This section involves the procedures and steps which might help analyze Hardy and Paton's novels according to Raymond Williams' theory in his article "Realism and the Contemporary Novel (1961)". Williams' (1958) "Realism and the Contemporary Novel" includes the social, historical documentation and the personal descriptive sides. The descriptive analytical method in this section examines the selected novels of Hardy and Paton carefully to see how far the theory is applied in them. The process of data collection and analysis includes both the descriptive research method along with the historical and social approaches.

#### **3.1 Validity**

As stated by Brink (1993), the above mentioned qualitative research methods are subjective depending on people's belief and experience. As a result, they neither include statistical analysis nor empirical calculations. Validity, here, is associated with the truthfulness and

accuracy of the scientific findings. The investigator considers the methods used in this study are valid as they measure what is required to be measured.

### **3.2 The Plot**

*Cry, the Beloved Country (1946)* is a novel by Alan Paton. It is a tale of a black priest called Stephen Kumalo who lives in a village called Ndotsheni. The simple man travels to Johannesburg to rescue his sister, Gertrude, who has become a prostitute and a liquor seller. A black priest called Theophilus Msimangu helps Stephen to look for his son, Absalom, who also goes to Johannesburg and never returns. While he is in search of his son, Stephen encounters his brother, John, who has become a political activist to defend the rights of the black workers. Stephen suddenly hears bad news about his son, Absalom, who has been charged with murdering a well-known white man called Arthur Jarvis. The murderer is immediately arrested and he admits that he has killed Arthur Jarvis because of fear and confusion. James Jarvis is Arthur's father and he is a wealthy white man that lives near Stephen's village. Stephen feels deeply sorry when he meets James Jarvis at the trial of Absalom. He unwillingly admits to James Jarvis that Absalom has murdered Arthur. Then, Stephen returns to Ndotsheni as he has failed to reunite with his family, very sad and disappointed. He suffers from self-exile and hence he escapes to disappear in the mountains just to pray for his son and recite some verses from the bible before his son is executed.

*The Mayor of Casterbridge (1886)* is a novel by Thomas Hardy. It relates the story of a man called Michael Henchard. He is the protagonist who fails to develop himself and build his future. As a result, he becomes a gambler and a drunk man who sells his wife and daughter to a sailor named Newson, for only five pennies. When he comes to himself, he begins searching for his wife and daughter everywhere. When he fails to get his family, he takes a solemn vow not to touch intoxicants for about twenty years. After eighteen years, Henchard becomes a wealthy man and a highly respected merchant of corn. Because of his weak mind and impulsive attitudes, he fails to cope with technology and modern life. Henchard's assistant Donald Farfrae manages to be his rival and to beat him both in business and in love. Farfrae beats Mr. Henchard in love and marries Henchard's beautiful lover called Lucetta. Henchard declares that Elizabeth Jane is not his daughter. She is Newson's child and as a result Henchard starts to hate the girl. In the end of the novel, Mr. Henchard goes bankrupt and he dies very poor, isolated and hopeless on Egdon Heath.

### **3.3 Hardy and Paton's Novels From Geographical And Historical Perspectives**

#### ***Cry, the Beloved Country (1948)***

The main setting of "Cry, the Beloved Country (1948)" is South Africa and the city of Johannesburg. There are some other places such as the village of Ndotsheni where Stephen Kumalo and his family live. Stephen's village is completely fictitious and the writer draws a panoramic view of nature including some hills that are covered with green grass along with valleys and streams that are full of water running down from the mountains of Umzamikula. The place gives the geographical nature of South Africa before the arrival of the British colonization. After the coming of the white man, everything changes and the mountains and valleys become bare and desolate and the rivers no longer run down the mountains of Umzamikula. The beautiful birds of Titihozano no longer sing in the forests.

#### **The Mayor of Casterbridge (1886)**

Williams (1961) demonstrates that the realistic novel should be a documentary of geographical places and historical events. He also asserts that there are events and places that should be traced, observed and documented when conducting the social or personal descriptive novel. The setting of the story is concentrated in the fictional town of Casterbridge in the region of Wessex which was one of the old kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon. Hardy managed to locate his setting to be part of the realistic towns and villages in the United Kingdom. The setting is in the county of Dorset where Thomas Hardy was born and raised. According to Yorke (1995), the county of Dorset is well known as a geographical documentary of the British history as it lies on the English Channel coast. It is well known for fossils and ancient rocks going back to millions of years. Dorchester is a historic town on the river bank. The mention of Wessex in the "*Mayor of Casterbridge*" means West Saxon Kingdoms. These kingdoms are very important and they indicate to old civilizations which are deeply rooted in the British historical forces. The location of Wessex is also associated with the old history of the royal family which ruled England in the past. All the historical events of the English civilization have taken place in Wessex. It is the symbol of unification of the United Kingdoms because the royal family was born and raised in the Upper Wessex. Queen Elizabeth I celebrated the history of Wessex at the wedding of her son, Edward. As a result, Hardy begins his novel with documentation of the most civilized areas of the Anglo-Saxon states. By the use of Wessex, the writer attempts to recover the English history in a

wonderful way. He also depicts the river and its long journey through the city of Casterbridge, its pace, sound and the colour of water as well as the river bank. The river goes on to draw the district of Wessex with its old historical ruins and mills. This river carries on to meet with another river forming a very wonderful view. The word "Franciscan" points out to the ancient and Catholic churches founded by Francis of Assisi. The existence of the mill in the same historical place documents the 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial revolution. From Chapter 19, Hardy says:

*"The river- slow, noiseless, and dark- the Schwarzwasser Of Casterbridge- ran beneath a low cliff, the two together Forming a defence which had rendered walls and artificial earthworks on this side unnecessary. Here were ruins of a Franciscan priory, and a mill attached to the same, the water of which roared down a back-hatch like the voice of desolation. Above the cliff, and behind the river, rose a pile of buildings, and in the front of the pile a square mass cut into the sky. It was like a pedestal lacking its statue. (Hardy, 2005: 127*

Hardy gives a very wonderful picture of the rural areas in his novel *"The Mayor of Casterbridge (1886)"*. The writer begins his novel by documenting a very important historical event; the repeal of the Corn Laws which has been implemented to boost the economy and open the door for free trade. Protectionism for the British grain farmers helps the local government to import cheap cereals from other countries. The plot of the story can portray three historical events which happen at intervals in the town of Casterbridge. These three events are: Michael Henchard sells his wife to a sailor called Newson, the repeal of the Corn Laws as well as the visit of important royal personage to England.

First, Michael Henchard who sells his wife for five pennies is a good example of the simple English man in the nineteenth century who drinks, gambles and never respects women. Hardy depicts what happens in the rural society of Casterbridge and the other parts of the United Kingdom. Gambling and taking narcotics are the dominant features of this society. Women are insulted and deprived of their rights in all parts of the country. Newson to whom Mrs. Henchard is sold considers the woman and her daughter as commodities and treats them severely. The woman escapes from Newson in an attempt to reunite with Michael Henchard who also neither respects her nor their daughter.

Second, the repeal of the Corn Laws makes a significant change socially and economically. From a social perspective, protectionism aids traders to interact with one another and collaborate to establish different kinds of business. Economically, the Peel's reform helps the economy to increase and the country to prosper. Moreover, it leads to establishing duty free shops corporation which results in self-sufficiency. The examiner thinks that the repeal of the Corn Laws is the best thing done by the British government at that time. It offers opportunity to employ the idle institutes and employ generations across the region of Wessex.

### **3.4 The general way of life and Observation in**

*"Cry, the Beloved Country (1948)*

One of the features of Williams (1958) *"Theory of New Realism"* is depicting the general way of life. The writer highlights the general way of life by portraying the big contrast between rural and urban societies. For instance, Stephen Kumalo and his wife represent stability, religion and morality while John Komalu, Gertrude and Absalom represent politics, corruption and crime. In rural areas, most of the black people raise money in order to educate their children. Stephen's family represents all families in rural dwellings who go to Johannesburg to better their living conditions and with no hope to come back. Moreover, the main means of transport, for the families, in rural areas, is the train whereas the white people have their own cars. As for the way of life in the city, the black men work in gold mining and other types of physical works in order to make a living whereas the white men have their own private jobs. In addition to that, the black always stand in long queues if they want to receive public services such as booking tickets for passengers and no white men are noticed to do the same. Crime is also considered as the way of life in the city of Johannesburg.

### **3.5 Observation and Depicting the General Way of Life in**

*"The Mayor of Casterbridge" (1886)*

In the light of Williams theory of new realism (1958), the social descriptive novel is characterized by accurate observation and description of the general way of life. The aggregation. Observation in Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* is very accurate and comprehensive. The writer attempts to closely observe and depict the rural people and other natural situations in the novel. Wessex consists of an agricultural and traditional community most of whose people are farmers. Henchard, the protagonist, belongs to the typical English

working class of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His eccentric character reflects the general way of life. He starts as a hay trusser and suddenly becomes the mayor of Casterbridge. The writer closely observes Henchard's relations with his friends or his family to introduce the social description of the working class. The protagonist has no money and. He sells his wife and daughter for only 5 pennies because he never cares for personal relations. Henchard is depicted to represent the quality of general life. On the level of social relations, Mr. Henchard becomes the mayor of Casterbridge to introduce himself to the society both as a leader and a trader. However he falls in love with Elizabeth Jane but he fails to convince her to marry him. So, the mayor is beaten in trade and also in love. Mr. Henchard attempts to reunite with his wife and daughter but suddenly he descends his job and becomes alienated forever. Observation is very accurate in the opening of chapter one to provide a comprehensive recording and clear observation of the land and the rural people.. Hardy says in chapter one:

*ONE evening of late summer, before the nineteenth century had reached one-third of its span, a young man and woman, the latter carrying a child, were approaching the large village of Weydon-Priors, in Upper Wessex, on foot. (Hardy, 2005:1)*

The weather is very hot and a woman with her child going on foot. Hardy provides a detailed description of the sand and dust of the land. The reader is given a very comprehensive picture of the countryside and the kind of people who live there. The first paragraph in chapter one is a good geographical documentation of the district. Chapter one also indicates that this description of Wessex takes place at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The weather is dusty and people go on foot since the means of transport are unavailable. This close observation records and portrays the long distances between rural and urban areas. Michael Henchard journeys from one place to another represents a historical roadmap of the whole region of Wessex. According to Williams' (1961), the creative realistic novelist offers his readers a general picture of the way of life. Then little by little the reader finds out the details of the story. This is what Hardy has done in "The Mayor of Casterbridge". He accompanies his readers to depict every single point in the district with close observation and clear recordings. The author also observes the attitudes of Henchard selling his wife and daughter for only five pennies. Selling one's wife and daughter is a sign of weakness not strength. It also indicates that a woman is like a

commodity sold and bought at a very low price. Women are mainly created to give birth to ripe generations ; they have no any social or historical roles. Hardy has made a great success in documenting how women are treated throughout the Victorian age. In this extract from chapter two Thomas ,Hardy depicts how Mr. Henchard travels around the district in search of his lost wife and daughter. The author conducts close observation by portraying Michael Henchard, very excited, in search of his wife and daughter. In chapter 2, Hardy says:

*"Then he said he would search **nolonger**, and that he would go and **settle** in the **district** which he had had for some time in his mind.Next day he started, journeying south-westward, and did not **pause, except for nights' lodgingstill he reached the town** of Casterbridge, in a far **distant** part of Wessex." (Hardy ,2005:20).*

With clear observation, The preface of the novel showshow traders such as Donald Farfrae and Mr. Henchard are prevented from going to the Prairies. There is no need for workers and traders to go abroad . Everything is available in abundance. The government's reform had a dramatic effect on the economy of the south-west of England. It was known as the country's bread basket. All people were so immersed in drinking and busy with gambling they never discuss the agricultural products or show interest in the political issues.

### **3.6Ending of Paton and Hardy's Two Novels**

According to Williams' "Theory of New Realism1958", the contemporary realistic novel ends with portraying the protagonist as isolated and alienated from his society. The end of the novel portrays that Kumalufails to bring his family back from the city of Johannesburg. He becomes psychologically collapsed and grieved. He moves away from his own society of Ndotshenito disappear in the hills forever. The reader is left completely confused inquiring; What will happen to Stephen then? It is for the reader to judge and predict the end of this novel. Paton has ended his novel in a new realistic way to enter his readers into open-ended discussions. Williams also points out that the contemporary realistic novel is characterized by the unhappy ending of the story.To emphasize this point, the end of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*portrays Mr. Henchard as an unhappy and alienated person. The man disappears, inhis abode near the hill. The mention of him has not come up once again. The story has been

left for the reader to pass his own judgment on it."The examiner thinks that The end of this novel points out to the previous ruined English civilization and. Henchard's downfall indicates to corruption and suffering of the Wessex people. As he goes towards the mountain, he recalls ancient civilization in this area and how it disappeared .It was a historical place where great men and women lived. Nothing is left except for some animals and ruins. He remembers his long journey to Casterbridge with his dear wife and little daughter twenty five years ago. Henchard makes his home at Jopp's cottage which lies at the Priory Mill. In fact, Jopp has a couple of rooms and hence Henchard can use either of them. The Priory is an old and ruined building and Mr. Henchard is an old simple man. In chapter 43 Hardy says :

*"It now became apparent that the direction of his journey was Weydon Priors, which he reached on the afternoon of the sixth day " (Hardy ,2005:318).*

According to Sutherland (2005: Hardy's technique makes Henchard display a family bible in whose inside flyleaf there are inscribed historical figures. It is a history of Judaea during the time of Roman empire. The author also predicts what will happen to Henchard by showing his future as a dead bird in a cage. Henchard's downfall was pre portrayed by Hardy in a very skilled way.

### **3.7 The Social approach**

#### **Alienation of Henchard and Kumalo**

Williams' New Realism(1958)emphasizes that the social descriptive novel can involve elements of alienation and separation. It portrays the way individuals interact with the society and how they affect and get affected. The realistic novel looks at the individual in social terms and considers the society through individual terms. Some of the aspects of the 20<sup>th</sup> century novels are separation and alienation. This means, the characters interact with societies and they suddenly get isolated due to their failure to cope with the contemporary issues. Michael Henchard separates himself from his own family, his lovers, friends and the whole society. He prefers to live with no family and keep away. This section discusses the main characters of the two novels : Henchard in "The Mayor of Casterbridge", and Stephen Kumalo in "*Cry, the Beloved Country*". This paper attempts to find some similarities and differences between the two novels in question. Henchard and Kumalo feel isolated from their own societies. Henchard is separated from his wife by selling her to New son and they

get reunited by the end of the novel. Unfortunately the couple is separated again and Henchard disappears to live alone. Henchard loses power and consequently vanishes forever to make his abode at Egdon Heath. He becomes isolated from the society and his family. The same case happens with Kumalo. In "*Cry, the Beloved Country* (1957)", Stephen Kumalo is also separated from his own family. Kumalo's poor family goes to the city of Johannesburg without coming back, He attempts to reunite with his small family but he fails. He comes back to Ndotsheni to suffer from isolation and alienation. The man goes away to the mountain to pray for his family and gets more alienated.

#### 4. COCLUSION

This comparative study is an attempt to examine the use of William's "Theory of New realism (1958) in Paton's "*Cry, the beloved Country* (1948)" and Hardy's "*The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886)". The above mentioned theory has been pointed at by Williams in his book "*The long Revolution* (1961)". The study puts the European and African cultures side by side to prove that Paton and Hardy maintain a new type of realism involving observation and description of events in every part of their selected novels. As explained in the findings, the two novels are descriptive and fall within the criteria of the social-descriptive new realistic novels.

Alan Paton's *Cry the Beloved country*, conducted in the African context, is a new realistic and descriptive novel, portraying a realistic picture of African society before and after the coming of the white man to South Africa. Analysis of the novel explores a panorama of corruption and illegal dealings in the city of Johannesburg and the surrounding areas. It also accentuates the social and personal relations of Stephen and how he has failed to cope with the social changes. The writer attempts to strike a fair balance between the actions and attitudes of Stephen Kumalo. To achieve this great task, Hardy portrays the protagonist, as a human being, psychologically collapsed and abandoned to his emotions in the desolate mountains. The open-ended technique used by Paton is a new realistic way of designing the contemporary realistic novel.

*The Mayor of Casterbridge*, is also a new descriptive novel being designed to portray the English culture and economy before and after industrialization. It shows the direct impact of the industrial revolution on the simple rural people and the quick shift from traditionalism to modernism. The novel highlights the social and personal relations of Michael Henchard. For instance, his relations with friends, lovers and family members as well as his social interaction. By using the elements of isolation and alienation of the protagonist, Hardy draws

a line of demarcation between the old methods of ending the social descriptive novel and the developed ones.

#### **4.1 Findings**

1.The research findings shows creativity of Paton and Hardy in dealing with Williams' theory via comprehensive observation, clear recordings and historical documentation.

2.It also shows social interactions between characters and societies.

The results indicates that the two selected novels of Hardy and Paton are new realistic narratives because they depict the general way of life.

3.Modernism in the two novels is highlighted by portraying the two protagonists as psychologically affected , isolated and alienated.

#### **4.2 Recommendations**

1.Novelists should review their techniques when writing realistic and descriptive novels.

2.When critics come across a realist novel , they should view it from different dimensions.

3.Supplementary reading material about the new realism is highly recommended in order to familiarize both researchers and literary critics about the theory.

4.The realist novel should beconducted hopefully to reflect the changing culture of the contemporary society in terms of language, everyday activities and behavior.

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