



**The Aestheticism in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*:  
A Genetic Structuralism Analysis**

**THESIS**

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**JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

**2015**



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**THESIS**

A thesis presented to the English Department,  
Faculty of Letters, Jember University,  
As one of the requirements to obtain  
The Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree  
In English Studies

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## DEDICATION

- ❖ *My Beloved father, Ariyanto, and my dearest mother, Mariyati who always support and pray for me. Thanks for your sincere love and affections.*
- ❖ *My dear little sister, Sofia Nabila Ariyanti who always support me.*
- ❖ *My beloved friends, 'the Genks', thanks for giving me a cup of pleasure.*
- ❖ *My friends in English Department, Faculty of Letters, academic year of 2010*
- ❖ *My Almamater*

**MOTTO**

“ Nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing.”

(Oscar Wilde)



**DECLARATION**

I hereby state that the thesis entitled The Aestheticism in Oscar Wilde *The Picture of Dorian Gray*: Genetic Structuralism Analysis is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any degree or any publications.

I certainly certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged

Jember, October 13, 2015

The Writer

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**Ika Safitri Ariyanto**

## SUMMARY

**The Aestheticism Represented in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*,  
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*The Picture of Dorian Gray* is a Victorian fiction written by Oscar Wilde, an Irish. This research focuses on the representation of 'aestheticism' within the novel itself. The aestheticism belongs to a concept which emphasizes on a liberation of art and literature from any tendencies of Victorian in 1891. The aestheticism promotes its slogan art for art's sake. The representation of aestheticism is depicted on the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* through several events that focus on art and beauty over everything. A beauty becomes an important aspect and also dominant in every characters. They adore and worship beauty.

There are three problems to discuss within this research. The first is about the representation of aestheticism in the *The Picture of Dorian's novel*, the world view constructed in the novel, and the last is politics of aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Thus, in completing this research, I use a qualitative research method, and data to analyse and identify this research. The data gathered in this research are some precise informations and facts about aestheticism and some informations of social condition at Victorian age.

This research applies Goldmann's theory of genetics structuralism. This theory is used to construct the world view of aestheticism in the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The analysis is divided into some parts focus on the representation of aestheticism in the novel which also reveals several facts. The analysis exposes the aestheticism which counts on beauty of art and life, and the aestheticism which serves the pleasure and hypocrisy through some characters and yellow book within this novel. Furthermore, the semantic poles of binary opposition is constructed to identify the author world view of aestheticism and also the politics of aestheticism as the strategy of Wilde in promoting the new concept of aestheticism through this novel.

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## CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Aestheticism is a school and also concept which counts on the beauty as the highest degree. It is derived from the word aesthetics as the main philosophy emphasizes on beauty and also the –ism as the school. This concept becomes a main philosophy of art and literature which is appeared in nineteenth century of Aesthetics Movement. Mandelsohn (2007) states that Aestheticism will be used to refer to the literary and artistic movement that flourished in Britain in around 1870 and 1900 and that advanced art for art's sake. The statement means that aestheticism as the literary movement is attempted to improve the quality of art by promoting the slogan art for art's sake as the fundamental slogan. By that slogan aestheticism illuminates art to focus on its own sake instead of considering to other tendencies outside the art. The art for art's sake serves a privilege for an art.

Aestheticism appeared in Victorian era of England. According to *History of English Literature* (2000) Victorian era is an era of modernism which is characterized by the growth of wealth and power, the change in industry and social, and by scientific discovery. The existence of science and knowledge prove a progression in any aspects in Victorian era. There are many sectors which are influenced by the development of science such as social, economy, politic and also art. The science creates a change and improvisation in society. One of aspects of improvisation is also showed in art as the product of creativity and intelligence. Thus, the aestheticism appeared to reform an art in the modern of Victorian era.

Aestheticism creates a new version of art culture in England. Art gains its autonomy and freedom to influence all aspects of life. The aestheticism belongs to the renewal of art that is referred to the previous predecessors which are the Romanticism and Greek. Evangelista (2009) reveals that the aestheticism comes as a culture that looks to the Greek past in order to create a new artistic norm for its times and also to produce the innovative of art works. Aestheticism based on

the citation is appeared as an advanced culture of Greek that create an innovation in art.

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* is one of the Victorian fictions which serves the description of aestheticism. This novel is written by an Irish author and also aesthete named Oscar Wilde. He creates this novel as the respond of social phenomenon of aestheticism in his Victorian society. In this novel, the philosophy of aesthetics are revealed by every characters such as Dorian Gray, Lord Henry, Basil Hallward and also Sybil Vane. The aestheticism also participates in some series of events within the novel. Dorian Gray, by his marvelous face, influences other characters to worship and praise him. He belongs to several crimes in order to perpetuate his temporal beauty by murdering his own friend and also the suicide cases. He experiences many things in order to create a pleasure in his beautiful youth.

The other character are Basil and also Sybil who are being mad by the beautiful face of Dorian. Basil worships Dorian even he creates a painting as beautiful as Dorian. Likewise Sybil who loves Dorian and lead her for committing a suicide when her love is rejected by Dorian. Besides, Lord Henry belongs to a provocative character in this novel who influences Dorian by his aesthetics doctrin. He becomes a teacher for Dorian who asserts him to keep his beauty and youth since it cannot exist eternally. He suggests Dorian to experience many things and also live artistically in order to achieve pleasure.

The goal of Wilde in producing this novel is to respond the Victorian morality and also the aestheticism in his society. He explores the philosophical concept of aestheticism to assert himself as an aesthetics figure and also an envoy of aestheticism. The aestheticism in this novel is supported by the yellow book as a bible of decadence since it tells how to live in artistics world by searching the highest pleasure. It illustrates the image of how to fulfill an obsession and desire in life artistically.

The aestheticism becomes an interesting topic to be discussed in this research since it is represented explicitly through several facts within the novel which counts on beauty. Most of the characters express the aestheticism whether

to create a pleasure or causes any miserables. Whereas the prospect of this novel is only to explore the aestheticism without considering to any interests. The aestheticism within this novel emphasizes an art and beauty which is used to reveal some facts about aestheticism, art for art's sake and Victorian morality. This analysis applies Goldmann's theory of genetic structuralism to reconstruct the world view and also the politics of aestheticism within this novel.

## 1.2 The Problem to Discuss

The problems in writing this thesis are the neccesary part to be discussed further. The problems will be broken down by interpretation of the precise theory. In determining the problem, I choose some problems which are easy to be discussed without twist around. The problem presented in form of questions as follows:

- a. How is the Aestheticism represented in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*?
- b. How is the World view of Aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*?
- c. How is the politics of aestheticism represented in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*?

## 1.3 The Purpose of The Study

There are some purposes of study that want to be reached by the writer:

- a. To analyze the representation of Aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
- b. To find out the world view constructed in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
- d. To reveal the politics of aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

This research is arranged sistematically in hope to give contribution to the students is conducting the precise research especially about Oscar Wilde's novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The next researchers who arrange the thesis with an equal topic can use the genetic structuralism theory to reconstruct the author's world view represented in the novel.

## CHAPTER 2.LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 The Previous Research

The previous researches are necessary materials to support this thesis. The previous researches explain an equal topic and have correlation to this research. There are several previous researches that assist the researcher to comprehend more. The first is a journal proposed by Yumnam Oken Singh and Gyanabati Khuraijam entitled *Aestheticism, Decadence, and Symbolism:Fin de Siecle Movement in Revolt*. This journal explains the Aestheticism, Decadence, and Symbolism which become the movements of art and literature that exist in late nineteenth century in England. The name of Aestheticism and Decadence held the doctrine of *l'rt pour l'art* which they look forward to the beauty and pleasure and place form over content. The doctrine of Aestheticism is the art exists for the sake of its own beauty without relating to the social, political and moral purposes. This journal uses the base theory by Immanuel Kant which is concerned to the judgement of taste. The theory is supported by the philosophy of Aristotle that is art is as the imitation.

The second research is paper entitled “**A Study of Art and Aestheticism in Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray***” proposed by Jenny Simeus which discusses about the aestheticism philosophy which expressed within the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. This thesis discusses of how Oscar Wilde represents the philosophy of art through the three characters which are, Dorian Gray, Basil Hallward and Lord Henry. Jenny focuses her thesis on the forms of art within the novel which are art of painting, art of literature and art of acting. Jenny refers to the preface of this novel and three of his forms of art to discover the purpose of Wilde in writing this novel by considering to the art philosophy. The aim of this thesis is to show several points which consist of art representation by focussing to the characters. This kind of representation used by Wilde to prove that this novel regarded as the aestheticism object.

The third is a journal written by Yuliana Puspitasari entitled **Negotiating Modernity, Resisting Tradition: Genetic Structuralism Analysis on Buchi Emecheta's *The Bride Price***. This thesis analyses Buchi Emecheta's novel, *The Bride Price* which describes the binnary opposition between the modernism and traditional thought of society reflected on this novel. By using the genetic structuralism theory, the researcher analyses a female character who has a modern thought and live in traditional society with traditional thought, the problem occurs when the character wants to get a balance of her thought and society but she gets a rejection from the environment. The researcher also want to analyze the author world view and the Nigerian social structure. Through the binnary opposition, this thesis reveals the differences between modern and traditional thought in order to discovers the social structure of Nigerian in 1950-1970.

The last is a thesis by using Genetic Structuralism also written by Witri Nur'aini entitled **Genetic Structuralism Analysis on “Lucky Jim” by Kingsley Amis**. This thesis focuses on the intrinsict aspect of the novel 'Lucky Jim' by Kingsley Amis in which the characters and the extrinsict elements describe about the social life's background of England after World War II. By using the Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism, the writer discovers the relation between character characteristics on the novel with the social condition when the novel 'Lucky Jim' was written which is the social condition of England after the World War II.

My thesis has a close relation with the entire thesis above since it discusses Wilde's novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* focusses on the analysis of the novel's structure to reconstruct an author's world view and politics of aestheticism by using genetic structuralism of Lucien Goldmann. The first and the second thesis contribute to my research through the description and understanding of the aestheticism especially in Wilde's works, the third and last research explain the genetic structuralism theory in order to construct the author's world view.

## 2.2 Lucien Goldmann Genetic Structuralism

Lucien Goldmann's theory of genetic structuralism states that literature is a structure which is constructed as the history-cultural product in continually. As the statement above means that Genetic structuralism is the combination theory between structuralism and marxism theory (Faruk,2012:159). It is called as structuralist theory since the genetic structuralism comprehends everything in this world also literature as a totality structure which build a meaning. Literature is a structure since it consists of several units which support each other systematically in creating a meaning. According to genetic structuralism, the structure of literary work must be related to the historical subject hence the marxism takes place. It explains that as the structure, literature not only focus on the internal (text) but also consider to the external factor such as social and historical aspects which contribute to the literary structure.

Literature as what Goldman states above is a coherence structure. The structure is build as the respond of author toward everything in his social surrounding. The tendencies of author toward his society appear when he does a certain relationship with several individu within a certain society. The relation done by the author as the agent of society of how they do the activities with other subjects and environment which then will create a social fact. It proves that human being cannot be separated to the society, as the setting where human take place and do several activities coherently. However, the literature is regarded as a structure since it contains several elements that related each other and produce a fact with a certain meaning.

The structure of literature resembles with the structure in society which becomes a reference for the author in creating his works. The structures of literature and society are equal since the facts of both occur as the result of human interrelationship with the environment. They are unsimilar since literature is a product of human imagination which the characters are fictitious and the fact in literature does not reflect exactly and precisely with the real fact in society.

Kurniawan reveals that Goldmann in Anwar (2010:103) refers to Marx concept of social theory which are 1) literature is the phenomena of an age, 2)

literature is the reflection of author in their age, 3) Literature is the external product which is affected by a certain social and historical background. It means that the function of literature is as the product of subject consciousness to represent the society influenced by the certain social background.

Genetic structuralism is an approach which concentrates to the text by analyzing the intrinsict aspect then correlate it to the external terms. Goldmann also note that as the structural product, literature cannot come into being by its own way, but it comes as the result of subject creativity and consciousness that is caused by his interaction with several subjects in a certain social situation. The main point here is the literature in genetic structuralism point of view is the structure that represents a phenomenon from a certain social stucture and in a certain time. The author as the social individu attempts to reflect the phenomenon he experiences in society through his imaginary world within the literature. Furthermore the Goldmann's genetic structuralism proposes four basic concepts of his theory which are the human fact, collective subject, significant structure, and world view.

### a. Human Fact

Genetic structuralism stresses on the concept of human facts. Goldman (1981:40,48) states that the human fact must be related to the behaviour of subject in order to be understood. It means that human fact is considered as the human behaviour which consists of several human who interact each other, hence it produces a phenomenon. Human fact must be associated with the scientific views to make it coherence and meaningful. It must be meaningful since human facts consists of human activities in society which are purposeful. Human facts are conducted by several individu with any prospects beyond their behaviour. The human fact belongs as the structure of literature which elaborates the relationship of inter human and the environment.

Goldmann in Faruk (2012:161) devides the human fact into two categories which are individual facts and collective facts. Individual fact is the fact which is produced by individu as the result of dream and libidinal actions, while the collective fact or social fact is a fact delivered by a group in society which is

related to the historical action. This collective fact occurs when a certain group conduct a balance toward their surrounding and everything happens on their environment then they create a certain reaction which is called as human fact. Faruk (2012;160) states that Goldman follows the concept of Piaget which are assimilation and accomodation. Assimilation is the process of how a human influence their surrounding. The human adjusts the environment to agree with their behaviours. In process of assimilation, sometimes there are some obstacles which obstract the human efforts to balance himself to the environment. Goldmann (1981:61) states that there are three kind of obstacles:

1. The fact that a certain sectorof the external world do not lend themselves to integrate into the structure being elaborate
2. The fact that a certain structure of the external world are transformed in such a way, that although they may have been able to be intergrated before, this integration becomes ingcreasingly difficult and finnaly impossible
3. The fact that individual in the group who are responsible for generating the process of equilibrium transform the surrounding social and physical environment, thereby creating situation that hinder the continuation of the structuring process generating them.

In accordance to the three obstacles above, it means that sometimes the environment rejects human effort in doing a process of equilibrium, hence the human being decide to do the accomodation. In accomodation, people tends to do a destructuretion in environment to transform a previous structure. Accomodation is the process where assimilatin failed and it makes human adapt to the society. In a process of accomodation, human tends to acheive and follow the structure of his environment. Then, they will conduct an adaptation with his social surrounding.

## b. Collective Subject

Human fact in the explanation above is defined as the product of collective subject. It is a collective product since the human facts can create a history and culture. The collective subject here is elaborated as a group in society which interact each other and have a certain ideas and aspirations about the problems posed by the society. Literature can be categorized as the product of collective subject since it describes a behaviour of a group of people in producing the social facts. The author as the social individu and also a member of certain group

attempts to explore the phenomenon around him to his literary work. Furthermore, the literature becomes an object which is created by an individu (author) to reveals his/her group behaviour in which he experiences and involves. In his group, the author attempts to elaborate the collective ideas of his group into his work that makes him to be a transindividual subject who mediate the literature with society. The author belongs as the collective subject for his group, and also transindividual subject for himself as the author. As the transindividual subject, he represents the ideas through the fictitious characters within his literary works.

Faruk (2010) states that Goldmann specifies the collective subject, based on marxist perspective, which is closely related to social class where this group has an effect to the development of social history through their views. The literature can represent those kind of social class which also can produce a social history. By the author consciousness toward the dominant social class in his society, it makes him realize to the spirit of those group. Furthermore, the author represents those spirit and world view of a certain group through an imaginary world within his literature. The world view is the aspect that mediate the literature and society which is constructed by the author as the mediator.

### c. World View

The most fundamental concept of genetic structuralism theory focuses on the product of collective subject which is called as the world view. Goldmann (1977:17) defines the world view as something which is comprehensive and complex of ideas, concepts, aspiration which is aimed to unite the members of a certain group simultaneously, and also to distinguish a group to the other social group. World view becomes the result of a certain social class toward social situation in a certain time. The world view arises amongst individu within a certain group which elaborate a collective consciousness toward society. The world view arises as something functional within a certain group to solve some problems in society. The subject's consciousness that reconstructs the world view as the historical product is determined by a certain situation. It makes them have an equal spirit and power in society in order to get a certain purpose. By this

world view, a certain social group can be differentiated with other group thus can create an identity for those social group.

Goldmann in Faruk (2010) states that the existence of world view is un concrete but rather it just as the theoretical expression of a certain group which later become a possible or impossible consciousness about the relation between human being with others and nature. It means that the world view exists as an abstract aspiration consists of expression and ideas of social group resulted by their relation between human and environment that the existence can be realized based on a certain situation. Literature as a product of collective subject can becomes the medium where the author, as the agent of social group, represents the world view of his group. It can be concluded that the author does not represent the social facts but rather the world view within his literary works.

#### **d. Significant structure**

Goldmann states that literature is a unity contains of several elements which is related each other. The structure is significant which is associated by infrastructure and superstructure. It means that everything in this world always belong to the broader structure and it constructs the totality. The significant structure becomes the concentration in Goldmann concept toward literature as the totality. The totality here means that the literature belongs to the process of structuration and destructions. It is called as destruction since it is historical, the transformation of previous structure that is created by the world view. Goldmann in Faruk (2010) believes that a literary work is a representation of society through the creation of world in characters, relations, and imaginary. The imaginary world is created by an author to explain the relation between the characters with the object around them. Through the imaginary world, an author can explain the function of literature which is to represent the social fact structurally.

Goldmann proposes the concept of homology that stresses on the relation between literary structure and social structure since both of them are the product of activity in equal structuration. The social structure is a structure consists of people who conduct several activities to create a social phenomenon. This structure becomes a process in which they do a balance process toward his

surrounding. Literature operates afresh its function as cultural product that must be able to describe that social structure, even vision of the society mediated by the world view.

Goldmann (1981:83) states that there are several concepts of significant structure:

1. Significant structure constitute the principal instrument of past and present facts
2. Significant structure governing the facts one intends to study comes up against two problems; the essential and accidental
3. The insertion of the studied significant structure even before they are completely isolated into wider structures of which they are a part
4. The concept of significant structure reinforced in the area of philosophical, literary and artistic work which characterized by the virtual, and real coincidence and also world view
5. Attempting to relate the works they are studying to the basic structure of historical and social reality
6. The study must be correlated to the historical and sociological structure.
7. The number of historical situation and literary are incomparably greater than the number of world view

Literature in accordance to the concepts above, cannot be appeared by its own way, but it is constructed structurally as a response of the author toward his society. Literature cannot be defined as the reflection of reality exactly but it represents the facts structurally. It is created as the product of mental categories of the author in responding the collective consciousness of his group. Literature is regarded as the significant structure since it represents the human fact consists of a collective activity as the process of human adaptation toward the world. As the representation of human facts, literature must be created meaningful and purposeful. There are several steps to analyze the significant structure, first, the internal structure of great philosophy that says the literary work which describes a fact of interhuman relation and nature. Second, world view as the product of

concrete situation based on the history. Third, the structural coherence is not static but dynamic virtually (Goldmann,1981:66).

This research is also applying the Goldmann's genetic structuralism since this novel is written as the respond of Oscar Wilde toward his social surrounding in Victorian era especially toward the aestheticism. I apply this theory in order to reconstruct the author's world view and the politics of aestheticism beyond this novel.

## CHAPTER 3

### RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

In reinforcing this research, it is necessary to use a method which includes the processes of how this research systematically and accurately done. Khotari defines research as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic (C.R.Khotari, 2004:1). In research, the method includes several components such as, type of research, data collection, data processing, and data analysis which will be describe below.

#### 3.1 Type of Research

This research belongs to the qualitative research since the data which are observed concern to the fact and phenomenon described on the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The qualitative data are taken from the novel as the primary sources and supported by other sources such as several book, journals, articles in website which overall are in form of words and sentences not in numerical form. The qualitative data are gathered from all selected sentences in novel and other sources which serve several informations required by this research. This qualitative research is done to discover the particular facts related to the topic being discussed in this research about social issues of Aestheticism emerged on the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

#### 3.2 Data Collection

Data collection is needed as the significant part in conducting a research. The aim of this process is to obtain the appropriate informations, in order to solve the research problems. The data are collected by technique of documentary and close reading to the several sources. The primary data of this research are facts and informations about the concept of aestheticism as the centre of plot in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Besides, the secondary data which are collected for this research are facts and informations about Victorian society, Aestheticism movement in England, the concept of aestheticism, art for art's sake, and the

biography of Oscar Wilde taken from books, journals, articles and published thesis .

### **3.3 Data Processing and Analysis**

In processing the data, the data are categorized into two parts for the necessity of processing. The primary data are analyzed structurally to answer the first question of this research. I relate the events which represent the philosophical concept of aestheticism; “art for art’s sake” in the novel by using structural theory proposed by Goldmann to get forms of relations in the novel. Furthermore, I construct the semantic poles of aestheticism to find out the forms of aestheticism within the novel. I process the semantic poles to discover the aestheticism depiction within the novel. The result of this step helps me to analize the relation between the aestheticism in the novel and the aestheticism in nineteenth era. I apply Genetic Structuralism theory through the fundamental concepts of human fact, transindividual subject and significant structure to analyze the aestheticism and the social background of Victorian era. The last step is by analysing the representation of aestheticism through the series of events within the novel, I reconstruct the author’s world view, then the politics of Aestheticism beyond it can be revealed as the final conclusion of this research.

## CHAPTER IV. DISCUSSION

The discussion in this fourth chapter leads to the investigation about the Aestheticism represented in the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by using Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism theory to construct the authors's world view. The explanation is stated on the topic as a basic of the research questions in this thesis which are the aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the world view represented in the novel, and the politics of aestheticism. The analysis of the problems are discussed in this chapter as follows.

### 4.1 Aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* is a novel written by an Irish Victorian author and also aesthete, Oscar Wilde in 1891. Oscar Wilde writes this novel emphasizes on the aestheticism which is released in Aesthetics Movement as a background. The Aesthetics Movement deals with an aestheticism as the main philosophy of art that focus on a beauty. As a representation of aestheticism, this novel contains of several ideas and also philosophy of aesthetics that occurs in Wilde's life during the process of production. He elaborates the aestheticism into his life as Mandelsohn (2007) states that Wilde became a convenient and controversial symbol of what aesthetic culture entailed. His appearance in Victorian society begins to be regarded as a symbol of aesthetics culture since he endorses the aestheticism into his life that proves his big sense in art through his stylist and eccentric appearances.

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* implies the aestheticism in the picture as an art and also in Dorian as a central character. Aestheticism is revealed in the picture of how it mirrors the artistics image of Dorian's marvelous face. The aesthetics image of the picture delivers him into some criminal cases of Sibyl, Basil, Alan, and James. All of them are the victims of an extremed influence of Dorian marvelous face. They are being mad even worshipping Dorian overly. Besides, Dorian worships himself through a reflection of his face on the picture.

In England, aestheticism appears as the school that leads the innovation of art which is asserted by the Aesthetics Movement in Late Victorian. Mandelssohn (2007:7) states that aestheticism stands for a short-lived but heady period of cultural innovation that is often also referred to as the Aesthetic Movement and, occasionally, the Aesthetic School. Aestheticism becomes a philosophical concept that initiates a reform to an art. The aestheticism in England creates an innovation and improvisation in art and literature. Besides, it is also as the triumph of artist to give an autonomy for their works by determining the slogan art for art's sake. Wilde in Mandelssohn (2007:22) reveals that its chief characteristics were to increase appreciation for 'beautiful workmanship', to recognise 'the primary importance of the sensuous element in art', and to liberate art from ethical considerations by embracing 'art for art's sake'. The slogan art for art's sake implies the freedom of art from any social, politic and moral implication.

In the first section of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Basil Hallward, a painter and artist, has finished his masterwork, a beautiful and marvelous painting of his adoration, Dorian Gray. The greatest painting he has ever created in his life. In this case, Basil is an artist, his role is to reflect the subject into his art works. The subject of art is Dorian Gray who has a marvelous physical that influences Basil in creating a resembled portrait on his works. The painting represents an image as marvelous as the original of Dorian Gray. The painting produces a sensation of happiness to the creator and also the other characters:

[Basil Hallward] As the painter looked at the gracious and comely form he had so skilfully mirrored in his art, a **smile of pleasure** passed across his face, and seemed about to linger there.

(Wilde,1891:6)

[Lord Henry] Lord Henry came over and examined the picture. It was certainly a wonderful work of art, and a wonderful likeness as well. 'My dear fellow, I congratulate you most warmly,' he said. 'It is **the finest portrait of modern times**. Mr Gray,

(Wilde,1891:26)

[Dorian Gray] When he saw it he drew back, and **his cheeks flushed for a moment with pleasure. A look of joy came into his eyes**, as if he had recognized himself for the first time.

(Wilde,1891:27)

In accordance to the quotation above, the three characters express an amazed feeling toward the picture. In Basil expression implies his gratification toward his best works and Lord Henry appreciates his friend's painting as the finest work in modern era. In modern era, the more develop the era and civilization, the more develop also the art work. The development of art is affected by the creator who be creative more and has a passion to create self improvisation which is supported by the science. The artists are required to be more innovative in creating their best art work by using their imagination and intuition. Thus, the picture of Dorian is one of the best art work. While, Dorian expresses his pleasure to the image of himself that is so beautiful. It creates such a feeling of narcissism that he admires himself alot. Dorian's painting is a form of art that portrait and reveals everything of a subject beyond it. However the one who becomes a mediator in expressing the image is an artist.

In this case, the painting is a revelation of Dorian face created by Basil Hallward as an artist. The role of artists is to create a beautiful creation. In aestheticism, the artists only need to explore their creativity to create art by only focusing on the artistics values and underestimating it from any aspects which can teach us about lesson. That is the purpose of the basic slogan of aestheticism which is art for art's sake. The art for art's sake is used by aestheticism to create an autonomy for art in 1890 of England.

The beauty and pleasure are two basic term which are attempted to be achieved by everyone in this world to liberate them from a harsness and strictness. While it can be useless if beauty is sobordinated by people in society. The nineteenth era, Mandelsohn (2011:14), is a period of very great vigour, thought, and passion were breaking free from tradition. The condition of nineteenth era based on the citation implies as a period for worker, industrialist and also a man of letter. The period with many workers passionately fight for a better life and also for the artists to create the best works freely. The artists and art have a privilege in society, they develop and flourish as well as a wealth. Therefore, the art does not emphasize merely to the artistics values, but it need to serve some interests in order to gain a specific aim. As Lord Henry reveals to Basil that 'you do anything

in the world to gain a reputation' (Wilde, 1891:6), it means that as an artist his role in society is to create something that can lead him to find a reputation as a reward for his genius. The reputation belongs to the project expected by most of artists to be exist longer in society by dedicating their best art. In nineteenth of Victorian era, the art begins to develope more, therefore the success of some arts and masterpieces brings a triumph for several artists beyond it. The fact shows how the art in nineteenth era is contaminated by specific implication. Several artists present their works to reach a certain project and interest not merely for the sake of art. Furthermore, for appreciating the art, aestheticism creates such a freedom for art, art need to merely explore the beauty and release them from social, politic and moral implication.

### **4.1.1 Aestheticism of Art and Decadence of Life**

The aestheticism is released in nineteenth century which is effected by the cultural modernity where the experiment, innovation, and challenges occured in many sphere such as social, politic and also in art. Evangelista (2009) states that Late Victorian aestheticism comes into being with this very identity.... it is not only to produce innovation in art work, but to re-conceptualise... (2009:44). The emergence of aestheticism is to reform the status of art and to create the desire of art in everyone. By developing the quality of an art with any innovation, art in era of modernity tends to be released from didactic landscape which serves several moral messages. Art is created as a medium for the artist to expresses their genius and creativity arbitrary. Art is liberated for exploring anything in this world artistically without any limitation caused by moral and social point of view. Thus, by liberating the scope of art, the devotee can gain any sensation during the process of appreciating an art.

Aesthetcism is a philosophy that deals with beauty as a main basic of art. In any case, art exposes an implication about social life which belongs to the nature. Nature serves a beauty image that can transfer some fresh and calm impulses for people's soul, thus art becomes a medium to uncover those impulse for a life. Besides, the aestheticism becomes a culture in nineteenth century where art and

literature begin to be appreciated more by people. They decorate their home by artistics interior and painting. Aestheticism appears to upgrade the people senses for the art to dominate all aspects of life. The image of nature is decribed in the first section of the novel about the image of Basil's studio.

The studio was filled with the rich odour of **roses**, and when the light **summer** wind stirred amidst the **trees** of the **garden** there came through the open door the heavy scent of the **lilac**, or the more delicate perfume of the **pink-flowering thorn**.

(Wilde,1891:5)

The description revealed by quotation above shows an image of nature such as roses, summer, trees, garden, lilac, and pink-flowering thorn. These elements are a consolidation of a nature which is overall stress on the image of plant. Art portrays the object whether factualy or imaginatively. In factual point of view, the art is created to represent the real object around the artist exactly. While in imaginative point of view, the creation of art uses the imagination of the artist. In aestheticism, for self improvement, the artist need to combine their imagination and reality into their art freely without any limits. In this case the self-improvement is the goal of aestheticism to reform the art and artist in modern era.

Sighn notes that Friedrich Nietzsche states art can transform any experience into beauty, and by doing so transforms its horror in such a way they may be contemplated with enjoyment (<http://www.inflibnet.ac.in/ojs/index.php/JLCMS/article/view/1650>, accessed on Novembre 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014). The statement means that art reveals a double image of the object to accomplish an enjoyment. It shows that whatever image revealed by an art, the aim is only to fulfill the sake of art itself not to present any other aspect such as good or bad, and beauty or horror. The painting of Dorian Gray also transforms Dorian's image, his youth, his beauty face and also his decline soul since art is an imitation. The picture reveals everything on Dorian exactly on the canvas.

In aestheticism, art emphasizes on a cultivation of beauty and also pursue a pleasure. The function of art is as the mirror of nature which has an interrelationship each other. Art not only explore the image of nature but also it

effects to the social order. However the role of artist is to mediate an art to the life. He becomes a subject that take a big responsibility for expressing the message and values of an art for life. In this case, the artist attempts to focus on any values of art such as social, politic and moral. Their privileged right toward their works is underestimated by other interests. The art should present the moral values which is appropriate with the moralitical standart of the society. Therefore in nineteenth century, the aesthetics movement is released to liberate the role of artists toward their works.

The aestheticism emphasizes on a beauty as the high values. The beauty in this novel is depicted on Dorian Gray as the central character. His beauty is adored and worshiped by other characters. In aestheticism beauty becomes the highest aspect which must be estimated on art and also life. As the high realm, a beauty can release everyone from the harshneess and strictness of the society at those era. The role of Basil is as a painter and also a creator, in this case the creator is a figure of God. An artist is a God for his art. The marvelous picture of Dorian is a creation of God, Basil.

**“ . . . It is one of the best things I have ever done. And why is it so? Because while I was painting it, Dorian Gray sat beside me. Some subtle influence passed from him to me . . .**

**‘Basil, this is extraordinary! I must see Dorian Gray.’**

Hallward got up from the seat, and walked up and down the garden. After some time he came back. ‘Harry,’ he said, **‘Dorian Gray is to me simply a motive in art.** You might see nothing in him. **I see everything in him.** He is never more present in my work than when no image of him is there. . . I find him in the curves of certain lines, in the loveliness and subtleties of certain colours. That is all.’

(Wilde,1891:13)

In accordance to the Basil’s statement above means that Dorian for him is a greatest subject who motivates him for creating his beautiful painting. Dorian for Basil is a great subject that transfer some contributions in its colour and sketches of his art. In this case, the artist (Basil) creates a painting, an inanimate thing, that can perpetuate the beautiful image (Dorian) eternally. Besides, the subject, Dorian, as a human being faces many things which deliver him into some alterations in his life and his face. His life declines more, while Dorian’s face

grows more charming. Besides, the picture of Dorian records all his sins on its wrinkled image. Both of them shows the comparison, the painting and Dorian are the creation of God, the Basil, artist, and the God of Dorian as human being. As the creation of human being, the painting has a permanent right on its beauty, while Dorian keeps his beauty temporarily.

In this novel, the Dorian's picture leads to the alterations like the living one, the beautiful image is being temporal. It portrays the beauty of Dorian in past, then it changes to be horror, and turn in its beauty in future. The horror image reveals an immoral action of Dorian toward his several crimes. The picture of Dorian implies that art can contain of moral and also immoral message. When it serves a beautiful image, it means art contains of a good message, but if it reveals such an image of evil, it means the art serves a bad message. In Late Victorian era, art is no longer related from moral, social and political point of view. There is a freedom in creating an art. The alteration in Dorian's picture proves that in aestheticism, art becomes a reference to be imitated by life. A freedom is aimed for the art to gain a perfection in creating a best work in modern time, likewise the life need a freedom to make a pleasure from a rigid society.

Satirically, this novel responds the situation in England nineteenth century where people begin to misdoing in everything. Yeat reveals in Bloom (2009) that "The 'nineties was in reality a period of very great vigour, thought and passion were breaking free from tradition." The statement implies that most of people in nineteenth era are capable to develop freely in doing whatever they demand. They create something innovative by relying on their passion and capability. The aristocrat is carried for their wealth, the slavery is for the misery and sorrow, the leader accounts for their power and also the artist has a duty for their art. They tend to underestimate a law and morality but just focus to fulfill their desire for a process of change and develop. The strict values of society can delimitate them in process of developing. This is the common feature of decadence. While, the art at that period is as the imitation of nature including the social life. Art not only elaborate the image of nature but also reveal the condition of England in nineteenth era.

## 4.1.2 The Aesthetics Effect of the *Yellow Book* toward Dorian Gray

Yellow book is a poisonous book which represents the illustration about life in aesthetics sphere. It is a book in which Wilde ever reads in his life even effects him by one of the substory of yellow book, *A Rebour*. According to Bloom (2011:12) *A Rebour* become at once a favourite book of Whistler, Wilde ... and something of the book's effect rubbed off on Wilde's life as well. This book also include on the *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as a book lend by Lord Henry for Dorian. By referring to the relation of the yellow book toward Henry and Dorian, it has a different respond from both of them. Wilde attempts to dissapprove toward the life concept drawn by the book. In Dorian, the impact is more fatal, the content of the book seduces him to has a resemblance type of life. Dorian tends to has an extravagant life as what is illustrated by yellow book. He desires to pass everything in reaching a happiness even by murdering.

The Yellow book are compiled by Henry Harland and Aubrey Beardsley in 1894 in form of magazine (<http://www.victorianweb.org/decadence/yellowbook.html> accessed in June 28, 2015). According to the statement, yellow book is published in Late nineteenth and the aestheticism set as the background. This book is dedicated as a bible in decadence era in England which serves any illustrations stress on the extravagant life in artistics sphere. One of stories within yellow book is *A Rebour* which is a French literature written by Karl Huysman. It describes a young Parisian who live hedonistically in his artistics world to search a highest pleasure. He spends his time to learn anything in a sphere of art to beautify his life. The concept which is brought by yellow book and aestheticism principle are similar, both of them desire to reach a highest purpose, a pleasure in life and beauty in art.

Yellow book in Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, is a guidance book for Lord Henry as an aesthete. He gets a lot of doctrins from that book about aestheticism which then he transfers it to Dorian. From studying those book Lord Henry warns Dorian to live beautifully to gain a perfection in life.

**Live! Live the wonderful life that is in you! Let nothing be lost upon you. Be always searching for new sensations. Be afraid of nothing. . . . A new Hedonism – that is what our century wants.**

(Wilde,1891:25)

The statement of Henry above suggests Dorian to always search pleasure in life. It becomes a doctrine for Dorian since he admires Lord Henry. Dorian passes everything in his life as what Henry asserts on him. Dorian stresses on manner over moral. He enjoys every moment he experienced in his society, he studies music, jewel, and perfume and also belongs to some crimes. All efforts are aimed to express his new hedonism. In nineteenth century hedonism is a way conducted by every people to gain merely a highest pleasure. They attempt to ignore the chaotic condition of the society around them.

Evangelista (2009) states that hedonism is the instinct to pleasure and the act of letting go of repression. The hedonism is a concept of life explained within yellow book. Hedonism has a close relation with aestheticism which both of them are elaborated to create a pleasure. The pleasure in hedonism is wished to complete a life in temporal world. It becomes a contradiction of the depression and strictness in the society. While the aestheticism supports it by perpetuating a beauty as a greatest values of art. By only stressing on a beauty, as a divine right, art will be released from critics and justification that can create a burden. Therefore art must be deliberated from any assessment outside the artistic sphere.

In this case, Wilde tends to negotiate the concept of yellow book. He does not oppose it or agree as a whole. The *The Picture of Dorian Gray* uncovers many things, Dorian Gray applies a hedonism in his life. His crimes belong to his hedonism in which after conducting a murder, Dorian does not regret all his behaviors. He does not murder for once but several times.

‘A method of procuring sensations? Do you think, then, that a man who has once committed a murder could possibly do the same crime again? Don’t tell me that.’

‘Oh! anything becomes a pleasure if one does it too often,’ cried Lord Henry, laughing. ‘That is one of the most important secrets of life.

(Wilde,1891:203)

In accordance to the Dorian statement above, it shows that his crimes belong to his pleasure since it is done for several times. He underestimates his immoral cases, he only focus on a self happiness of himself especially on his face which is more enamoured over all his sins. In this case, the hedonism happens on Dorian's life which is created to resist the moral values in society. In nineteenth century of England the society bears a rigidity because of the reined and extremed law which produce the existance of puritanism. Thus the hedonismn in aestheticism is created as the rebelion toward the social and moral values of the environment.

### **4.1.3 The Hypocritical Image of Aestheticism**

Aestheticism creates an ambiguity on art which reveals a face of mask. It pleases us by his beautiful image but also conceal a horror image behind it. Thus radically, aestheticism is emphasized merely on its beauty. In Dorian Gray, the hypocritical feature is also emerged when everyone forgives him since he is beautiful. He conceals the image of devil behind his angel face. Dorian's beauty makes himself is praised by other characters. As what Basil declares to Dorian, 'As I said to Harry, once, you are made to be worshipped' (Wilde,1891:11). The aestheticism is expressed in Dorian's life especially since he has a beautiful face that save him from social punishment over all his sins. The concept is also applied in art as an expression, imagination and intuition of an artist. Art not only expresse something but it also create values. In a process of creating a values, aestheticism liberates the artists to limit the art from any moral implication. As what Rader (1960:xxx) states that art is not morality, religion, technology, or social reform, but neither is it an anodyne or a piddling luxury or an esoteric escape from life. It means that art does not need to be related to other aspect except the art itself. Art is created not to be justified by any standart of life, but rather appreciate the values of art.

In this novel Wilde explores a beauty as something superordinate which is adored, worshipped, and also praised. A beauty is the quality of art, hence a beautiful face of Dorian asserts him as a symbol of an art. Dorian is the one who

adores beauty over everything since beauty is a perfection of life. He respects to his marvelous youth as the worth value of life. As what Lord Henry utters that:

‘What would you say, Harry, if I told you that I had murdered Basil?’ said the younger man. He watched him intently after he had spoken.

‘I would say, my dear fellow, that **you were posing for a character that doesn’t suit you. All crime is vulgar**, just as all vulgarity is crime. It is not in you, Dorian, to commit a murder. I am sorry if I hurt your vanity by saying so, but I assure you it is true. **Crime belongs exclusively to the lower orders.**

(Wilde,1891:203)

In accordance to the quotation above, it implies that Lord Henry is disagree with Dorian’s assumption about murdering Basil. He refuses that murder belongs to Dorian since crime for Henry is vulgar or viceversa. Besides, the murder is a character of the lower order which is incompatible with Dorian since he is beautiful. The disagreement of Lord Henry toward a crime, clarifies that he still associates himself with the law of his society. However Henry resists to the crimes since it is an enemy for social and moral law. In this case, the citation explains that the aestheticism in Henry and Dorian are different, they have a different point of view. For Lord Henry, a beauty and pleasure are something necessary based on the moral standart. The pleasure can be gained from everything but not the crimes. While for Dorian beauty is the highest realm in life over everything. He can conduct everything to fulfill his pleasure even by immoral behaviour such as murder. Aestheticism in Dorian’s perspective is revealed merely to resist his rigid morality in his society.

Aestheticism occurs in art of modern culture in nineteenth century. According to Evangelista (2009:46) the modern culture is dispersive and fractured by conflicting moralities. The culture at that time influences to the development of art in modern era. Aestheticism launches its radical slogan art for art’s sake as the fundamental principle of art over life. While in modern age, life also apply that concept to release one’s soul to be artistics like an art. The crucial problem arises in nineteenth era which is aestheticism appears not only to appreciate an art but also uncovers the opposition toward Victorian values. The expansion of art culture in modern era is coincide with increasing of several trials in sociaty. The most

crucial cases in society at that time is homosexual which belongs to the aesthetics trial. Wilde by incidentally belongs to one of the writers who conducts those cases in public. Bloom (2011:3) reveals that the ideology of Wilde's homosexuality was its dominant element, involving the raising of love to the high realm of aesthetic contemplation. As the aesthetic contemplation, the main goal of doing the homosexual action is to accomplish merely a smugness and pleasure in life. The homosexuality reveals a resistance toward Victorian society which is full of morality.

The other character who shows a great appreciation toward beauty is Basil Hallward. He adores Dorian.

'I see you did. Don't speak. Wait till you hear what I have to say. Dorian, from the moment I met you, your personality had the most extraordinary influence over me. **I was dominated, soul, brain, and power by you.** You became to me the visible incarnation of that unseen ideal whose memory haunts us artists like an exquisite dream. I worshipped you. I grew jealous of every one to whom you spoke. I wanted to have you all to myself. I was only happy when I was with you. . . . Weeks and weeks went on, and I grew more and more absorbed in you.'

(Wilde,1891:110)

The quotation above shows Basil revelation about his feeling toward Dorian that he worships him alot. He regards Dorian as an art which he need to appreciate it totality like his art. Dorian's personality and face influence-him. He has a beautiful face like a female which attracts Basil as a male. Since Dorian is beautiful, Basil ignores his male sex. His amazement toward Dorian belongs to divine feeling toward something beautiful, it is a feeling that cannot be questioned. Basil's feeling implies a homosexual feeling but not in his behaviour. Basil reveals to Dorian, 'I worshipped you. I grew jealous of every one to whom you spoke. I wanted to have you all to myself. I was only happy when I was with you (Wilde,1891:110). Homosexual is a social issue in the age of Late Victorian era. This behaviour indicates a same sex relationship which shows an immoral action of anti-puritanism in the nineteenth era. This action aims to a pleasure without considering whether the actions are accepted or not by society.

Wilde is one of Victorian authors who conducts a double behaviour as a heterosexual and homosexual. Kingston (2007:8) states that Sinfield avers that

neither Wilde nor the Victorians saw Wilde as a homosexual but as an aberrant heterosexual who indulged in homosexual acts—an important distinction. It means that Wilde as a Victorian author undergoes a double life, he does not resist the heterosexual and support a homosexual, but he conducts both. Wilde just want to separate himself from moral and social restraints.

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Lord Henry reveals that ‘Believe me, no civilized man ever regrets a pleasure, and no uncivilized man ever knows what a pleasure is (Wilde,1891:76). The quotation above shows that civilized man is categorized as a non-puritan man who emphasizes manner over moral. The character of civilized man is closely related to the homosexual who also emphasize manner over moral. Both of them are also appropriate with the principle of aestheticism that underestimates everything except beauty.

#### 4.1.4 Aestheticism as a Triumph of Art and Artist

Aestheticism releases an art by launching the radical concept art for art’s sake. It becomes an opportunity for the artist to improve their ability in creating an innovation toward their works. Aestheticism becomes a school in Late Victorian era which is associated to an appreciation and improvement for art and artist. As what revealed by Lord Henry and Basil.

‘Poets are not so scrupulous as you are. They know how useful **passion is for publication**. Nowadays a broken heart will run to many editions.’

‘I hate them for it,’ cried Hallward. ‘**An artist should create beautiful things, but should put nothing of his own life into them. We live in an age when men treat art as if it were meant to be a form of autobiography.** We have lost the abstract sense of beauty. Some day I will show the world what it is . . .’

(Wilde,1891:14)

The quotation above shows that Basil disagrees with the character of his era which emphasizes an art to serve any interest like publication. Most of artists utilize their works to earn living. The artists based on quotation above prefer to reveal their personal life than just to focus on the sake of art itself.

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Dorian has an interesting background of his boyhood before he becomes a charming boy.

So that was the story of Dorian Gray's parentage. Crudely as it had been told to him, it had yet stirred him by its suggestion of a strange, almost modern romance. **A beautiful woman risking everything for a mad passion. A few wild weeks of happiness cut short by a hideous, treacherous crime.** Months of voiceless agony, and then a child born in pain. The mother snatched away by death, the boy left to solitude and the tyranny of an old and loveless man. Yes; it was an interesting background. It posed the lad, made him more perfect as it were. Behind every exquisite thing that existed, there was something tragic.

(Wilde,1891:37)

The quotation above describes a parentage of Dorian Gray. He comes from a vulgar, terrible, but interesting background where his mother risks everything to reach her desires. Her lovely life is seized away by a loveless man. That is a tragic story of Dorian. It contributes him to be a perfect person, he is not only impressive and marvelous in his present but also in his past.

In Late Victorian era, aestheticism emerged as the new school of art. This school is affected by ancient Greece. As Evangelista (2011:11) reveals that aestheticism looked to ancient Greece for new ways of reading history and tradition, of understanding its own role within them, and of developing tools for social and cultural criticism and artistic innovation. The influence shows how the ancient Greece contributes the aestheticism to lead an innovation of an art in modern era. The aestheticism becomes a revival of art from its two predecessors, Romanticism and Greek. Aestheticism is promoted to self development of artist in creating an extraordinary work. The scope of art in aestheticism is unlimited since the artist can express their feeling arbitrary.

#### **4.1.5 Aestheticism in Relation amongst Characters:**

##### a. Dorian and Lord Henry

Dorian is a main character in this novel who portraits a beautiful feature of art through his face. Dorian is depicted as a pure youth and marvelous boy. The appearances of Dorian lead him to be a victim of Lord Henry for his aesthetics doctrines. Lord Henry becomes an envoy and also a patron in spreading the aesthetics philosophy toward Dorian who does not recognize how to live life artistically. Lord Henry attempts to make Dorian realizes how worth a beauty he

has hence he need to keep it carefully. A beauty is a gift of God for human being in their youth that the existance is temporary. It can change certainly to be withered and old someday. Therefore, since a beauty cannot be retained eternally, Lord Henry warns Dorian to keep his beautiful youth before it changes to be ugly and old. He wants Dorian to enjoy his pleasant as long as possible before it cannot be exist anymore in Dorian's life.

'To me, **Beauty is the wonder of wonders**. . . . Yes, Mr Gray, the gods have been good to you. But what the gods give they quickly take away. **You have only a few years in which to live really, perfectly, and fully**. When your youth goes, your beauty will go with it, and then you will suddenly discover that there are no triumphs left for you,.... **Time is jealous of you**, and wars against your lilies and your roses. You will become sallow, and hollow-cheeked, and dull-eyed. You will suffer horribly. . . . Ah! **realize your youth while you have it**.... .'

(Wilde,1891:24)

The citation above shows Lord henry's request toward Dorian to respect everything he has as the worth thing which must be realized. Lord Henry describes a situation when Dorian loses his beauty someday which can lead him into a misery. Lord Henry's statement above shows how he worships beauty a lot, and he wants Dorian to praise it more. Lord Henry insists that a beauty is the worth thing which is wished for every people in their life. Besides, Dorian realizes that he has something worth in his life which he will definitely lose it someday.

'How sad it is!' murmured Dorian Gray, with his eyes still fixed upon his own portrait. **'How sad it is! I shall grow old, and horrible, and dreadful**. It will never be older than this particular day of June. . . . If it were only the other way! **If it were I who was to be always young**, and the picture that was to grow old! For that – for that – I would give everything!'

(Wilde,1891:27)

The statement above implies that Dorian is obsessed to retain his youth eternally. He cannot lead himself to be old and dreadful someday that can create such a painful for himself. Therefore he ought to do everything to remain his beauty. The quotation shows that Dorian responds overly to Lord Henry's suggestion. His respond toward immortal beauty reveals his resistance toward God and nature's law. He creates his own fate. He makes his own principle about

beauty, he not only can protect his beauty as God's present but also perpetuate it for everlasting.

### a. Basil and Dorian

The other character who is amazed by Dorian's face is Basil Hallward. He is an artist and also Dorian's best friend who creates a marvelous picture of Dorian. He creates the painting since he adores Dorian a lot and wants to express his feeling into his creation.

'I see you did. Don't speak. Wait till you hear what I have to say. Dorian, from the moment I met you, **your personality** had the most extraordinary influence over me. **I was dominated, soul, brain, and power by you.** . . . **I worshipped you.** I grew jealous of every one to whom you spoke. **I wanted to have you all to myself. I was only happy when I was with you. When you were away from me you were still present in my art. . .**

.

(Wilde, 1891:110)

The quotation implies that Basil is the one who is attracted by Dorian's beautiful face. Basil reveals that the beauty dominates his brain and soul. It means that Dorian has a fatal beauty which has obsessed by the deepest part of Basil's life and lead him to worship Dorian. By the quotation, Basil consciously underestimates Dorian's gender as his male friend. He awes Dorian like a male adores to female. Basil possessively adores Dorian all to himself.

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray* Basil is not only as the artist but also as the worshipper of Dorian. He creates a painting as the incarnation of Dorian since it unveils everything in Dorian include his beauty. This case proves that the art is an expression between mind and soul of an artist to express something that he observes. Since Basil adores Dorian, he creates an art based on his personal feeling and intuition. The character of his art is subjective. The aestheticism also emphasizes the subjectivity of an art. It means that art only need to represent the appearance not the historical aspect of the object. The artist is obligated to create only a beautiful art, but not to reveal the other things outside the art.

'Well, you don't mind my looking at **the thing** now?'

Dorian shook his head. 'You must not ask me that, Basil. **I could not possibly let you stand in front of that picture.**'

'You will some day, surely?'

‘Never.’

‘Well, perhaps you are right. And now good-bye, Dorian. **You have been the one person in my life who has really influenced my art, ... .**

(Wilde,1891:112)

The quotation declares how Dorian prohibits Basil to see his portrait since it has changed to be loathsome. He knows that Basil adores him so much and cannot let Basil discover all his sins in the portrait. Dorian wants Basil to dedicate him as the one who influences more to the picture by his beautiful face not his historical life. The quotation shows the subjectivity set by aestheticism for the art. Aestheticism only focus on art in the extrinsic aspect, not the intrinsic aspect which can uncover the identity of an object.

### b. Dorian and the Dorian Gray’s picture

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the prominent aspects that reveal an aesthetics feature are Dorian Gray and his portrait. Both of them have an equal marvelous since the portrait is an incarnation of Dorian image. In this case the relation between Dorian and his picture is a relation between life and art. One of them can endure the beauty eternally but not for the other one.

‘I am glad you appreciate my work at last, Dorian,’ said the painter, coldly, when he had recovered from his surprise. ‘I never thought you would.’

‘Appreciate it? **I am in love with it**, Basil. **It is part of myself**. I feel that.’

(Wilde,1891:29)

The statement above shows Dorian’s appreciation toward his picture that also prove his adoration toward himself. It implies a feeling of narcissism on Dorian toward himself. The picture reminds Dorian how beautiful he is. However since Lord Henry has taught him about aesthetics philosophy, it makes Dorian adores himself overly. Dorian does an exchange of his soul with the painting to remain his own beauty. He can bear everything in his life while the picture will record all his sins. Dorian keep remain his beauty, while the painting transforms the beautiful image to be loathsome visage.

**For there would be a real pleasure in watching it. . . . This portrait would be to him the most magical of mirrors.** As it had revealed to him his own body, so it would reveal to him his own soul. **And when winter came upon it, he would still be standing where spring trembles on the verge of summer.** . . . Not one blossom of his loveliness would ever fade. What did it matter what happened to the coloured image on the canvas? He would be safe. That was everything

(Wilde, 1891:103)

The quotation above declares that Dorian feels happy in watching the picture, at least can save him from his sins marks on his face. Besides, Dorian also feels a burden since the painting uncover all his depravity, it reveals his own soul. The motive of Dorian does an exchange since he knows that everything he has is tentative, while the picture can endure it permanently. He need to stand to be youth and fascinated. He realizes that his beauty can attract several people around him such Basil, Lord Henry, Sybil Vane and also himself. He also can find such a pleasure feeling by watching to the portrait of himself. Furthermore, Dorian pleases himself after exchanging his soul to the picture to be remained young and marvelous while the picture grows old and loathsome.

### c. Dorian and Sibyl

Sibyl is a female character who is influenced by Dorian's charming. His face amazes her and make her loves Dorian so much. Dorian has an equal feeling toward Sibyl but he is only interested to Sibyl on the stage as an actress who plays a part of several female characters of Shakespeare's drama such as Juliet, Imogen, and Rosalind. These three characters play in a romantic and tragic drama which is conducted by Sibyl on the stage. Therefore, Dorian loves a wonderful and genius actress, Sibyl Vane, through her beautiful drama not the original Sibyl.

**'She was the loveliest thing I had ever seen in my life.** You said to me once that pathos left you unmoved, but **that beauty, mere beauty, could fill your eyes with tears.** . . . And **her voice – I never heard such a voice.** It was very low at first, . . . hen it became a little louder, and sounded **like a flute or a distant hautbois.** . . . Sibyl is the only thing I care about. . . . Every night of my life I go to see her act, and every night she is more marvellous.'

(Wilde, 1891:50&53)

The quotation above shows that Dorian is enchanted more by Sibyl Vane. Everything she performs, speaks and also acts on the stage can amaze him. Sibyl for Dorian is a girl whom he loved in his life and always play a beautiful acting in every night. It is the reason of Dorian to choose Sibyl to be his sweetheart.

Then he leaped up, and went to the door. ‘Yes,’ he cried, ‘you have killed my love. You used to stir my imagination. Now you don’t even stir my curiosity. You simply produce no effect. **I loved you because you were marvellous, because you had genius and intellect, because you realized the dreams of great poets and gave shape and substance to the shadows of art.** You have thrown it all away. You are shallow and stupid. My God! how mad I was to love you! What a fool I have been! You are nothing to me now. . . **Without your art you are nothing.** . . The world would have worshipped you, and you would have borne my name. What are you now?

(Wilde,1891:85)

Dorian’s love toward Sibyl based on the quotation above has changed. Actually, Dorian loves Sibyl because of her good acting hence when it becomes worst, Dorian does not love her anymore. Dorian puts all his dreams on Sibyl. He thinks that by loving a girl who has a marvelous art, the world not only worship her but also Dorian. The revelation of Dorian on Sibyl implies that something which makes her to be worth and impressive is her art, without it she is nothing for Dorian. Art is the most precious thing over everything include her love.

Besides, Sibyl loves Dorian in different point of view. Sibyl’s love for Dorian is logical while Dorian’s love is imaginative. Sibyl’s love is a kind of love based on some reasons, she tends to be married with him to pursue a pleasure in her future life.

. . . ‘Mother, mother,’ she cried, ‘why does he love me so much? I know why I love him. I love him because he is like what Love himself should be. But what does he see in me? I am not worthy of him. And yet – why, I cannot tell – though I feel so much beneath him, I don’t feel humble. I feel proud, terribly proud. Mother, did you love my father as I love Prince Charming?’

(Wilde,1891:60)

According to the quotation above, Sibyl states to her mother how great her love for Dorian is. Sibyl loves Dorian since he is a worth person whom Sibyl expects a pleasure in future life with him. She feels such a passionate love for

Dorian since she knows Dorian is a rich and beautiful man. Sibyl still recognize Dorian as a Prince Charming not his truly name Dorian Gray. Those are the prominent aspects of Dorian that makes Sybil rightfully proud of him. In Sibyl, she loves Dorian because he is beautiful and worth, while Dorian loves Sibyl because of her art. Art and beauty that make Dorian and Sibyl are precious and great. Both of art and beauty are the prominent aspects of the aestheticism to create a pleasure in life.

#### d. Lord Henry and Dorian toward Yellow Book

Lord Henry is one of main characters who has a big influence for the other character around him through his aesthetics doctrin. In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Henry becomes a person who gives an effect toward Dorian Gray through his aesthetics doctrin which he learns from the yellow book. He is an aesthete who loves an artistict life style and also hedonism. Then, he tends to assert Dorian to apply those kinds of principle within his life

**'No, you don't feel it now. . . Ah! realize your youth while you have it. Don't squander the gold of your days, listening to the tedious, trying to improve the hopeless failure, or giving away your life to the ignorant, the common, and the vulgar. . . Live! Live the wonderful life that is in you! Let nothing be lost upon you. Be always searching for new sensations. Be afraid of nothing. . . A new Hedonism – that is what our century wants. . . '**

(Wilde,1891:24)

The quotation above states Lord Henry's suggestions for always living for a new sensation to improve an experience in life. The statement of Lord Henry contains of doctrins for searching a sensation of pleasure in life. The quotation emphasizes how to live hedonistically. It becomes an artistics prinsiple for Lord Henry as what he discovers on his guidance book,yellow book. The book elaborates him about one character who spends his life for all passion, colour and mood. Lord Henry realizes that he has been poisoned by the yellow book to experience a lot of beautiful things.

The yellow book for Lord Henry is intended as a guidance book. This book contains of plot which describes a character who lives in the artistics world.

. . . a psychological study of a certain young Parisian, who spent his life trying to realize in the nineteenth century all the passions and modes of thought that belonged to every century except his own, and to sum up, as it were, The style in which it was written was that curious jewelled style, vivid and obscure at once, full of *argot* and of archaisms, of technical expressions and of elaborate paraphrases, . . . The life of the senses was described in the terms of mystical philosophy.

(Wilde,1891:121)

The quotation above implies the plot of yellow book about a young Parisian who spends his life in experiencing every moment in his life. The plot according to the quotation is illustrated by using a philosophical and artistic language. The influence of yellow book on Lord Henry is about how to enjoy a beauty as long as he lives since it is something that cannot be endured eternally in life. While for Dorian Gray, Lord Henry is such a teacher for him. Henry has lent him a yellow book and taught him how to live hedonistically. For Dorian, the hedonism is a way conducted by him to resist against the rigidity of his society. He attempts to enjoy everything that can lead him into pleasure freely without any limitation from social and moral values.

Yes: there was to be, as Lord Henry had prophesied, **a new Hedonism that was to recreate life, and to save it from that harsh**, uncomely puritanism that is having, in our own day, its curious revival. . . . Its aim, indeed, was to be experience itself, and not the fruits of experience, sweet or bitter as they might be. . . . it was to teach man to concentrate himself upon the moments of a life that is itself but a moment.

(Wilde,1891:126)

The quotation shows that Dorian justifies Henry's concept about hedonism. He needs to apply the concept in his life to create an experience as much as possible. Therefore in the process of seeking experiences, Dorian decides to study perfume, jewels, and music (Mighall,2000:129-130). The perfume gives him a calm sensation by the sweet aroma of perfumes. Music is a kind of art that serves a harmony by some notes as a representation of nature. The jewels create an effect of luxury and glamour. All of them are the way conducted by Dorian to seek a sensation of pleasure and release him from the chaos of his society. The effort of learning music, jewels and perfumes represents a hedonism because a sensation of pleasure in one self can be created by applying them in life.

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the aestheticism is represented through the relationship amongst the characters; Dorian, Lord Henry, Basil, and Sibyl. The aestheticism is revealed through the narcissism in Dorian to himself, the passionate love of Sibyl to Dorian, or the imaginative love of Dorian to Sibyl since she has a beautiful art. Besides, the constructive beauty in Dorian's life that shows his resistance toward God's law, and the divine beauty in Lord Henry's life. In any case, aestheticism is also implied through the concept of hedonism in Dorian and Lord Henry based on the yellow book's guidance.

#### **4.1.6 Semantic Poles of Binary Opposition of Aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray***

Aestheticism in this novel stresses on Dorian and also the picture of himself which serves a beauty on both of them. Dorian on his marvelous youth, and on its beautiful image of the picture. The revelation of beauty on Dorian (life) and picture (art) constructs the semantics poles of aestheticism within this novel:



Semantic pole above explains the aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* which is described on Dorian Gray and the painting. Both of them have a

beautiful image which creates love for each of them. In Dorian, his beauty delivers him into some crimes and sins. While in Dorian's picture, it perpetuates a deity through its beautiful image. Beauty belongs to a value that the right cannot be changed and hesitated. It is everlasting. In Dorian's life, he is obsessed to perpetuate his beauty eternally, hence he commits some crimes. The crimes create an eternity on his beautiful face. While the picture, the deity leads the temporal beauty over all Dorian's sins. An eternal beauty on his face creates a pleasure for Dorian. A beauty belongs to the worth thing in life. While, the picture of Dorian reveals an image of misery, it changes to be loathsome and old. As an art, the picture describes the image of Dorian's corruption. Dorian's greed toward an everlasting beauty leads him into death. The death of Dorian returns the picture's beautiful image while Dorian becomes old, ugly and death. Dorian brings the image of life in which a beauty can only be kept tentatively in youth while art is inanimate object which the beauty, as its high degree, exist immortally. Thus art is emphasized more than the life itself.

## 4.2 The World View Constructed in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Oscar Wilde (1854) is an Irish Victorian author who lived in England. He is one of Victorian authors with a fashionable dressed and elite appearance. Evangelista (2009:126) notes that Wilde was able to exploit in the construction of his successful public image as flamboyant aesthete and eccentric. It creates an assessment that he has big anxieties toward artistic things. Moreover he has been graduated from his study of Greek art and also ever had a journey to America to learn a lot about art.

Aesthetics Movement is art movement in Late Victorian which launches the concept of aestheticism as a new version of art culture in modern age. One of his works that uncovers his appreciation to the aestheticism is *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. This novel represents an aesthetics principle which brings Wilde to be a missionary of aestheticism and also rebel toward social values in Victorian era. He puts any attention within *The Picture of Dorian Gray* to respond his society in which the morality creates such a rigid condition in Victorian society especially for the art. However art for art's sake is promoted as the main concept of aestheticism. The object of this concept is to liberate an art from any tendencies outside the art itself. The aestheticism concept creates an autonomy that countenance a resistance toward social and moral values in Victorian society.

In his society, Wilde is intended as a collective subject who expresses the aspirations and views of his group where he behaves, thinks, and experiences collectivity. As a collective subject, Wilde attempts to reflect those collective consciousness and also his mental consciousness into his literary works through his fictitious characters. Goldmann (1981:18) states that literary work is a constitutive element of social consciousness and is less related to the level of the real consciousness of transindividual subject than it is to their possible consciousness. It means that literary work is an element consists of the author consciousness toward his own concept and social concept toward everything around him.

Oscar Wilde is a member of the society who aware to his social phenomenon around him. He responds the art culture associated by aestheticism

in Victoria era. The aestheticism promotes a concept art for art's sake which is merely to liberate the art interests even by resisting the social standart. Therefore, Wilde tries to renovate the new concept of aestheticism. Art not only emphasize the beauty but it is also supported by any preferences. Wilde asserts his aesthetics principle as a negotiation between the morality in Victorian society and aestheticism based on art for art's sake. Wilde reveals his support toward aestheticism and his defense toward morality. His aesthetics principle tends not only to liberate an art but also to reform the art identity in Victorian era.

In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the aestheticism is depicted as the prominent principle that lead beauty as something superordinate. The beauty is elaborated as the highest degree of art. In this case, the art stresses not only to the picture of Dorian but also on Dorian Gray. Dorian reveals such an image of beautiful art on his face. Lord Henry reveals that "Dorian Gray is some brainless, beautiful creature, who should be always here in winter when we have no flowers to look at, and always here in summer when we want something to chill our intelligence" (Wilde,1891:7). Dorian based on the statement is a worth and beautiful creature. The existance of Dorian is desiderated, and worshipped. As something superordinate, Dorian's beauty lead him to be someone adored more.

Beauty is a form of Genius – is higher, indeed, than Genius, as **it needs no explanation**. It is of the great facts of the world, like sunlight, or spring-time, or the reflection in dark waters of that silver shell we call the moon. **It cannot be questioned**. It has its divine right of sovereignty.

(Wilde,1891:24)

The quotation above depicts beauty as something worth and precious, it is a highest value. The beauty is a quality that cannot be explained and questioned. It means that the sovereignty of beauty can only be understood and appreciated. The beauty is dedicated as a prominent value of aestheticism which focuses only on the form over values. By only considering to the beauty, art can affect several aspects of life. Art is expected to create a sensation of pleasure for people and release them from any rigorous and rigidity of moral that lead them into misery. Thus, the aesthetics principle proves a reaction toward any social and moral values in Victorian era.

## 4.3 The Politics of Aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891) is a novel which explores the aestheticism through the series of events that emphasizes on art. The art counts as a necessary aspect beyond everything even life itself. The significant aspect of art which is explored is beauty. The beautiful image in art has an absolute and also divine right. The validity of beauty in art effects the life of every characters in the novel. They worship to the art and do everything only for the sake of art. They praise the art and also beauty as the highest rightness. Most of the characters can serve their whole life to create a wonderful art. However, they also undergo a life like an art which always pursue a beauty to create a sensation of pleasure.

In aestheticism, the emphasis of art is based on the slogan art for art's sake. Art is exaggerated by releasing it from any tendency except for art itself. The slogan is formed to give a freedom for the art. Whereas, art cannot be separated completely from any aspect in life since art is created as a revelation of nature. The art reveals objects exactly but it cannot explore the object's nature. The similar phenomenon arises between Dorian Gray and his picture. The picture mirrors everything on him include his beauty image but not the nature. As a human being, Dorian's beauty has an unpermanent right which can no longer exist in Dorian's life eternally. Whereas the picture can retain his beautiful image for everlasting since the right of art is absolute. The art has a divine right in its beautiful image.

Oscar Wilde in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* tends to merge the art and life. The art is not separated from life, but it is linked to the life. According to the novel, art effects more to Dorian's life in which he awes Basil and Sibyl's art rather than to the people. Dorian murders both of them when their art creates an infliction for Dorian. Besides, Dorian is also an art for himself and Lord Henry. Dorian adores himself since he realizes the reflection of his beautiful face on the picture. He finds such a sensation of pleasure when he watches his own reflection on the picture. Likewise Lord Henry also realize that Dorian is as the art, since he is beautiful like an art. In this case, there is a difference between art and life in

which the quality of art is permanent while life has a temporal rightness. The temporariness of life is depicted by the death of Sibyl, Basil, and also Dorian. The death of several characters within the novel uncovers the evidence that life certainly run into a death.

In aestheticism, art is touted, adored, worshipped, and also appreciated. Art effects every aspect of life since the quality of art is superordinate than life itself. Thus, the aestheticism promotes art which is supported by art for art's sake to retain its perfection. In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, aestheticism is asserted by the perpetuity of Dorian's picture as art in the end of the story.

...they found hanging upon the wall a splendid **portrait** of their master as they had last seen him, in all the wonder of his exquisite youth and beauty. Lying on the floor was a **dead man**, in evening dress, with a knife in his heart. He was withered, wrinkled, and loathsome of visage.

(Wilde,1891:213)

The quotation above shows that the art keeps its beauty while Dorian dies by growing old and loathsome. Both of them show the difference in which Dorian as a human being changes to be old. He loses his beautiful face and youth. While, the picture as an art perpetuates the beautiful image.

Art and life in the novel are described as a paradoxal term but relate each other. Both of them are paradoxal since art and life have a precious thing on the beauty. A beauty emerges in art on its highest values, and becomes a preference of life on its youth. Art retains its beauty as a quality while life keeps beauty as a gold periode. In life, beauty is youth which is characterized by young age with marvelous face and also life pleasurely. Whereas, a beauty in life is not more precious than in art since life will be fated by an old age and also mortality. In beautiful period, life is linked with hedonism as a desire to create a highest pleasures. A hedonism is conducted to express the gratitude in life toward a youth. As Lord Henry utters to Dorian "... Ah! realizes your youth while you have it. Don't squander the gold of your days, ... (Wilde,1891:24). Furthermore, art reveals its beauty as a highest degree. The divine right of beauty delivers art as a reference for the life.

In this case, Wilde asserts his own concept about aestheticism. His aestheticism concept disagrees the slogan art for art's sake but does not oppose it. The death of Dorian elaborates the concept of art for art's sake which is revealed by Wilde within the novel. Besides, the death also uncovers implicitly his contemplation toward morality in his society. It uncovers Wilde's strategy to counter the aestheticism and also the morality in his society. He tries to promote the new concept of art, aestheticism, to be more appreciated in modern era.

The phenomenon within the novel expresses that Wilde undergoes a double blade in his life. Wilde tries to create a reform through the aestheticism in his rigid society but he cannot release himself from the rigors totally. He asserts himself as a missionary of aestheticism but not as a rebel of his own society. In this novel, Dorian's life also emphasize the concept of art for art's sake. He creates his own pleasure even by several crimes. In his life, Dorian is unpunished by the society since he is beautiful. He lives only to be a beautiful creature. Then, Dorian dies by his old face which proves a resume of his entire sins and also cover his immortality

Furthermore, Wilde does not tout merely the art for art's sake, but rather to negotiate the art to be related with morality. Wilde's trial as a homosexual (Kingston:2007) shows that he does not against the social morality but he tends to accomplish his aesthetics desire by those behaviours. His homosexuality represents the concept art for art's sake that emphasizes on a freedom. Wilde's aestheticism concepts also shows his rejection toward the yellow book and also the group beyond it. Wilde does not encourage himself as a member of the yellow book since it serves any illustration about pursuing pleasure in life. The yellow book is a decadence book in Victorian era since it describes a hedonism. The yellow book counters the concept art for art's sake in which life only need to create a highest pleasure even by rejecting any moral and social standart. Therefore in modern era, art and life are linked simultaneously. Art cannot be separated from morality since art is created to give any function for any aspect of life.

## CHAPTER V. CONCLUSION

Aestheticism is intended as a concept that exaggerate a beauty as a high degree of art. The aestheticism occurs as a basic concept which is released in Victorian Aestheticism Movementa to reform an art in England 1890. It serves a previledge for art by promoting the concept art for art's sake. The art is dedicated to service not for any interests except for art itself. The liberation of art from any limitations is aimed to create self-improvement for the artist.

In this novel (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*), Wilde proposes the aestheticism not only as a concept to liberate an art but also to counter a rigid morality in Victorian society. The representation of aestheticism in this novel uncovers some facts of aestheticism in Victorian age. The privilege of aestheticism encourages the triumph for the art. Besides it also elaborate the issues of decadence in life at that era. Moreover, the existence of aestheticism is considered as the movement that resist the rigid Victorian morality. For that case, this novel proves the ambiguity of aestheticism whether for the art and life in Victorian age.

Art is expected to create a pleasure sensous for human being. It is supported by aestheticism in emphasizing every aspects of life with beauty, based on the concept of art for art's sake. Beauty is dedicated as the prominent aspect in aestheticism likewise the youth in life which is appreciated and praised. Thus, Wilde asserts his aesthetics principle as a negotiation between Victorian morality and aestheticism. Wilde reveals his support toward aestheticism and his defense toward the social morality of his society. His aesthetics principle tends not only to liberate an art but also to reform the art identity in Victorian era.

In accordance to the events within the novel, Wilde tries to asserts that *The Picture of Dorian Gray* reveals his strategy to negotiate the concept of art for art's sake with morality in his society. He attempts to criticize the rigidity of Victorian morality especially in art, but he also refuses the concept art for art's sake that consists of a resistance. However, the aestheticism emerges as a product of Victorian era that cannot be released completely from Victorian era's character.

Art will be affected absolutely by social and moral values. Furthermore, this novel is created to promote the new concept of aestheticism proposed by Wilde to reform the identity of art in modern era.



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## APPENDICES

### **SYNOPSIS OF *THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY***

In the studio there is an artist, Basil Hallward, who was sitting in front of his marvelous work. It is the portrait of an extraordinary beauty of young man, Dorian Gray. The best painting which Basil ever had in this world, and the portrait of an extremely vulgar boy who Basil ever knew in his life. As the vulgarity painting, Basil refuses to exhibit it for public, while his friend, Lord Henry suggests him to exhibit it since the kind of vulgarity picture is the one which the world must know about it. He believes that the world needs to underestimate everything except the beauty, the society needs something which fascinates them. Lord Henry proposes Basil to introduce him with his marvelous friend who has inspired Basil in creating this picture, a boy who has influenced Basil through his beautiful face, Dorian Gray.

Firstly, Basil rejects Lord Henry's request since he knows well that Henry will influence Dorian with his aesthetics doctrine. Henry's doctrine can reduce the purity and genuineness of Dorian's soul. However, when they meet, they fascinate and interest each other. Dorian interests Henry through his marvelous visage while Henry influences Dorian by his doctrine of aesthetics. Lord Henry reveals to Dorian that the most necessary thing in this world is beauty and the youth, hence people are prone to search and cultivate the beauty for the pleasure fulfillment.

Dorian has a tragic but beautiful background on his boyhood. It makes Lord Henry assert Dorian to realize more toward everything he has in present before he loses it someday. He warns Dorian to search any pleasures during his life. Lord Henry clarifies clearly that the beauty is something which can bring every person into the highest pleasure. Besides, he states that everything which Dorian has cannot be retained enduringly since they will be fated by an age. The doctrine leads Dorian to have a fatal expectation that he sacrifices everything to remain his beauty eternally through selling his soul toward his own picture.

In another time, Dorian announces Basil and Henry that he is falling in love with an artist who plays a marvelous drama of Shakespear, Sybil Vane. Lord Henry asserts Dorian that nobody can interest him without any charm in her, and Dorian explains that he falls in love to her marvelous performances in every plays she had on the stage. She is like a miracle stars when she acts on the stage. As what Dorian feels about his feeling, Sybil also loves Dorian as her Prince Charming who can bring her into pleasure when she gets married with Dorian. But her love to Dorian breaks everything, Sybil done a mistake on the stage, she acts badly which terrifies Dorian, he cannot endure the disappointment caused by Sybil. As the result, Dorian refuses to meet Sybil anymore even to marry with her, he reveals that without her marvelous acting, she is nothing for him. It delivers her to commits a suicide.

The time when Dorian feels burden of the Sybil's death, Lord Henry comes to convince Dorian that everything happened is as a part of artistic story in which when something is ended by the death, we need to leave them in behind and continue to the next chapter, there is always a sadness part for a happiness ending. Dorian thinks repeatedly Henry's statement in his room. He stares in the picture of himself, there is a loathsome smile in the picture, the beautiful face changes to be weak, old, loathe and horor. The picture records his sins. It also has acceded his past expectancy to give everything for the picture in order to retains its immortal beauty. He hides this picture in his private room hence nobody can discover all his sins marks.

In another day, Lord Henry sends Dorian a stranged book, *yellow book*, that has read by Lord Henry. It is a poisoned book that makes Dorian to copies the main plot of the character in this book. This book guides him more about the pursuing pleasure in artistics sphere which must be searched and retained. Dorian is the one who has poisoned by this book, it teaches Dorian to live in artistic world and leads him to be a hedonist such as learning music, jewel and parfum. While, in his process of searching pleasure is incompatible with the image expressed in the painting of himself, it changes to be more loathsome and rotten. It insists Dorian to blame the creator, Basil. He decides to kill the creator. As the

criminal, Dorian forces his friend, Alan Campbell to help him for destroying the corpse of Basil, hence nobody will discover his crimes. However at the result, this case leads Alan to commit suicide since he participates Dorian in his crimes.

In a series of crimes happened around Dorian proves that they are intended as Dorian's effort of searching pleasure. Dorian not only enjoy every events emerged in his life, but the charm of his beautiful face is more impressed. The more crimes he done, the more enamoured his face. It amazes every people around him including James Vane, Sybil brother who take a reverenge to Dorian. But James is shooted by someone in a thicket, he is died before killing Dorian for his reverenge. Life had suddenly become too hideous a burden for him to bear. He tries to recollect in every events happened on him and his several friends who are died improperly. Dorian blames himself, Lord Henry and a book given for him and also he blames more to the painting which record his sins on its face. Dorian attempts to dissapear the sins mark and also his sufferings by slaying the picture with a knife concurrently there is a cry heard, and a crash which was so horrible in its agony that arouse the servants. In the upstair, they find hanging upon the wall a splendid portrait of their master as they had last seen him, in all the wonder of his exquisite youth and beauty. Lying on the floor was a dead man, in evening dress, with a knife in his heart. He was withered, wrinkled, and loathsome of visage. It is Dorian Gray.

## BIOGRAPHY OF OSCAR WILDE

Oscar Wilde is an Irish who was born in Dublin on 16 Octobre 1854. His father is a surgeon named Sir William Wilde and his mother is a poet named Jane Francesca Elgee. He is not only regarded as a writer but also as a greatest playwrights of the Victorian era. He has graduated from the Trinity Colledge Dublin and also Oxford as student of Art. During in Oxford, Wilde is involved in Aesthetics and Decadence Movement and took interest to the slogan art for art's sake accepted from an art historian and writers who he admires more Walter Pater. He is not the pioneer of aesthetics movement but a proponent of the movement which emphasized on the aesthetics values over moral values.

As a man of letter, Wilde creates many works such as poem, plays, and also novel. This are several examples of his greatest works are *The Important of Being Earnest*, *An Ideal Husband*, *A Woman of no Importance* as his plays, and one his masterpieces is *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Most of them express the principle of aestheticism. He works as a reviewer of art in Chealsea London and also lecturer in Britain after graduating from his school.

Oscar Wilde becomes a central figure of aestheticism and also a dramatic leader in promoting the movement near the end of the nineteenth century. He had adopted aestheticism while still at Trinity College, and he goes to America to present the doctrin under the title of the English renaissance. He is called as a precursor of the Modern movement. As an aesthete who brings a two version of aestheticism, he dressed as an eccentric and dandy man of those era with a sunflower and lilies in his performance. He applies the aestheticism into his life where he is a high priest of aesthetics, that has a new message concerning the relations of beauty and the worship of beauty to life and art.

Oscar Wilde marries with the wealthy girl whose named Constance Lloyd at 1884. They have two daughters Cyril dan Vyvyan. As a father, Wilde indoctrinates his daughters such as Vyvyan with one of his tenet of art that: Art is superior to Nature. Nature has good intentions but can't carry them out. Nature is crude, monotonous, and lacking in design when compared to Art. In 189, he gets

a trouble in a publication of his work, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* which cannot be accepted by public since it contains of a homoerotic code which causes something of a sensation amongst Victorian critics.

Oscar Wilde is not only as a husband, father of two daughters, but he is also recognized as a man lover. He lives in a double life as a homosexual and also heterosexual. He begins his trial after metting with his junior of school and also his lover Alfred Doughlas or ‘Bosie’. It becomes his initial downfall which break his marriage with Constance at 1893. Wilde’s case with Bosie is revealed by Bosie’s father in public which lead him sentenced for two years of hard labour for the crime of sodomy. His scandal is censured by public since the homosexual is one of the scandalous crimes in Victorian era. During in prison, Wilde writes the monologue, *De Profundis* which is addressed to Bosie. After releasing from prison he estranged from his society, he moves to French and lives in a poverty life with his friends. At 1900, Wilde is died of cerebral miningitis.

The Figure of Aestheticism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

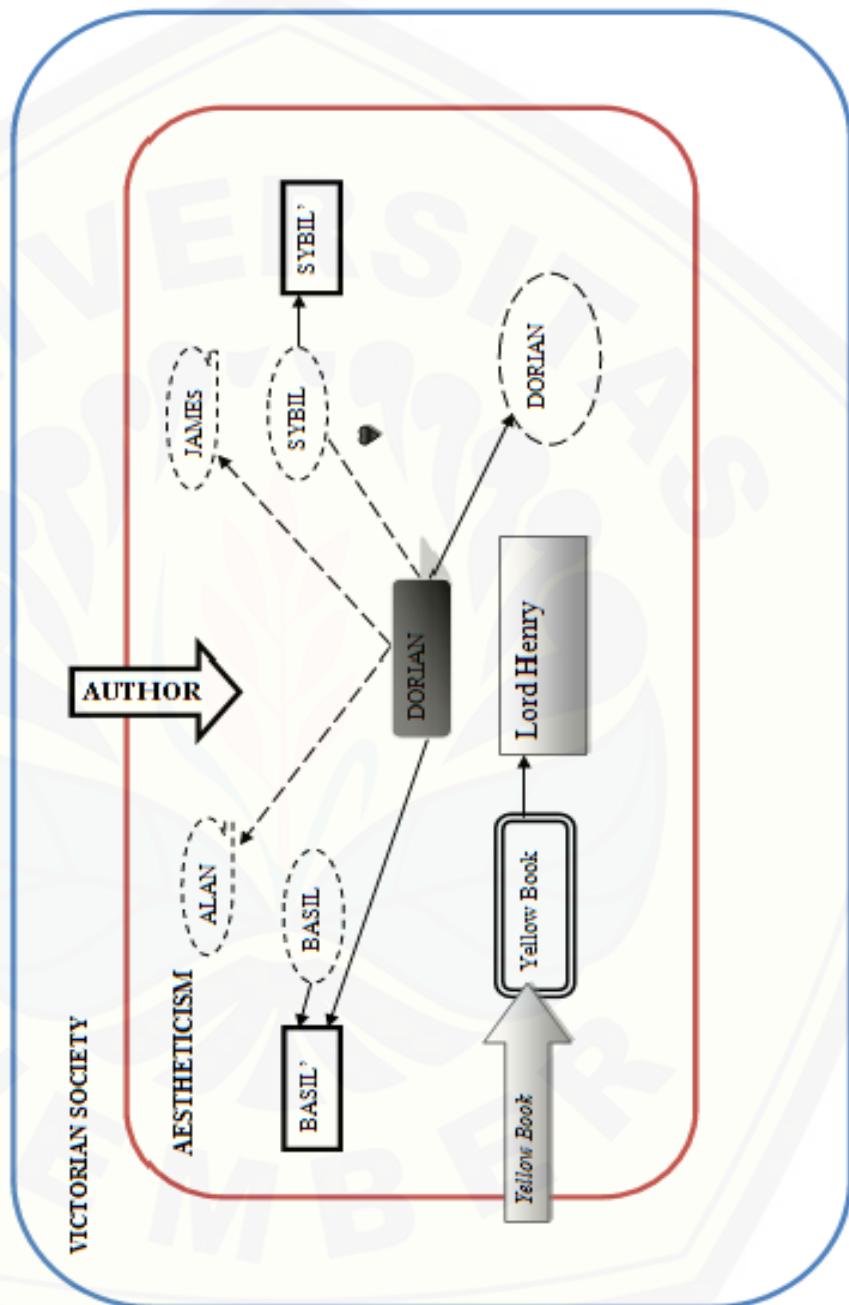


figure 1.1

The illustration:

The image above illustrates that *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is a novel written by Wilde that counts on the aestheticism. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* represents Wilde's respond toward the aestheticism in his Victorian society. He operates as a God of his own works that he elaborates the aestheticism through the series of events within his novel. The central character who prevails an aestheticism is Dorian Gray. Dorian has a relation with some characters such as Lord Henry, Basil, Sibyl, Alan, and James. In this case, Lord Henry becomes the one who gives influence toward Dorian. Henry effects Dorian thorough his aesthetics doctrins that he learns from the yellow book. The Lord Henry doctrin encourages Dorian to focus on his youth and beauty. Lord Henry asserts Dorian that he has a worth thing on his life. The prominent aspect of this novel which is praised and worshipped is beauty. Besides, the aestheticism is emphasized on the art. Both of beauty and art are two basic aspects in the novel that effect the characters.

Dorian by his marvelous youth is attracted by Basil and Sibyl, and also himself. Dorian's beauty attracts Basil to create a picture which makes Dorian realizes his beautiful face. Likewise, Dorian also loves Sibyl's beautiful acting on the stage. In this case, Dorian only love Basil and Sibyl art, not to the people. While, when their art has changed, the picture transforms to be loathsome, and the acting changes to be worse, it creates such a burden for Dorian. Then Dorian kills the artist, Basil and Sibyl. While, during his crimes, the picture of himself changes to be more old and rotten image, and his own face becomes more enamoured. It delivers him into pleasure. Dorian conducts a similar crimes toward other characters, James and Alan. This crimes also make his youth to be more charming.

The series of events conducted by Dorian toward other characters is aimed to perpetuate his beautiful face. He realizes through the picture that everything he has in present never be endured eternally, it is permanent. He does everyhting, good or bad, is only for creating his selfindulgences. While, Lord Henry asserts him only to enjoy his temporal youth by searching any experience in his life

before he dies. Both of them uncover the hedonism, but Dorian expects to live pleasurely for everlasting with his divined beauty. Thus, Dorian slays the picture since it reveals all his sins marks on the image, but he slays himself. Dorian is killed by himself.

The death of Dorian reveals some issues which becomes the impacts of worshipping overly toward beauty, it also assert that Dorian as a symbol of life will be fated by the death since life is permanent for every human being except the art. The death of Dorian conveys that the aestheticism emphasizes a beauty on art over everything including the life itself. Beauty belongs to life in temporarily, while the art dedicates beauty as a permanent value. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* also uncovers the world view of aestheticism that Wilde tries to negotiate between the morality and the aestheticism. He does not support the art for art's sake or resist the Victorian moral values, but rather undergoes both of them. Furthermore, this novel unveils the opposition of Wilde toward the yellow book and people beyond it whom the concept of aestheticism is incompatible with Wilde's aestheticism and also Victorian moral values. That is the strategy of wilde in creating a new version of aestheticism in modern age.