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***The Study of the Major Principles of Naturalism
through The Open Boat by Stephen Crane***

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Dedication

This work is dedicated to my dear parents for their patience, help, understanding and support during all the years of my studies

To my brother and my sisters

Also, I dedicate this work to my best friends

To all my family in Adrar especially my grandmother.

It is dedicated to all whom I love without exception.

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Abstract

This dissertation studies American literary Naturalism. We seek to show the ways in which Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat* is representative of the most salient features of American Naturalism. In fact we seek to show not only the content but also the form are examples of naturalist features. The present work is divided into four chapters. In the first chapter we review the characteristics of Naturalism, through styles and themes of naturalist writers. The second chapter is an over view of American society, its industries, immigration, science, the emergence of the city and Crane's life and works. The third chapter examines Crane's language, style, the use of literary devices in the story and the fourth chapter aims at highlighting the most important Naturalistic features present in *The Open Boat* through its themes and content.

Key words: *Naturalism, Stephen crane, The Open Boat, Thematic Theory, American literature.*

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General Introduction

General Introduction

American literature throughout its history had witnessed various and different period and movements. Each one of those trends has its own principles, directions, ideology and writers. One of these movements is Naturalism. Naturalism is a literary movement of a pessimistic tone which came in the late nineteenth century, its way of studying human life is completely different from other trends (High, 1986).

This dissertation sheds light on this important literary movement in the history of American literature. It appeared as new direction in the last part of the nineteenth century and received huge following from many writers, because they were convinced that it expresses the concerns of their age. Among naturalists we find Frank Norris (1870-1902), Hamlin Garland (1860-1940) and Stephen Crane (1871-1900).

This study aims at studying the principles of American Literary Naturalism through an examination of Crane's story *The Open Boat* (1898). I intend to point out the most important naturalistic aspects present in this story and introduce how those aspects are the main part to understand Literary Naturalism. First, giving the influences, the characteristics of Naturalism and themes, styles of naturalist writers. Second, reviewing American society in the nineteenth century, its industries, immigrants, science and Stephen Crane's Life and works. Third, examine Crane's language, style and the use of literary devices in the story. Fourth, highlighting the most important naturalistic features shown in *The Open Boat* through its themes and content.

Our study is mainly based on our interest in how Naturalism tracks the effects of environment on people who were helpless to change their situation. Crane provides an excellent example of how environment affects people's lives, opinions and destinies as he stated in *The Open boat*, in which Crane showed us how even life and death are determined by fate.

We have chosen Stephen Crane and his short story *The Open Boat* because we believe that our thematic approach to the form and content of the short story will show the ways in which the naturalist mode of writing is employed in the text.

To achieve our objectives, we investigate Naturalism in *The Open Boat* to find answers to the following questions.

1. How does Naturalism manifest itself in the form and content?
2. Are the naturalist features present in the text representation of American Naturalism in general?

To begin our study it is hypothesized that:

1. Naturalism in America has emerged as an expression of the late nineteenth American literature.

2. *The Open Boat* is a clear representation of the late nineteenth century American Naturalism.

We have divided our work into four chapters. In the first chapter, we will study the influences, characteristics of Naturalism through styles and themes of naturalist writers. The second chapter deals with a look at American society, its industries, immigration, science, the emergence of the city and Crane's life and works. The third chapter examines Crane's language, Style, the use of literary Device in the story and the fourth chapter aims at highlight the most important naturalistic features shown in *The Open Boat* through its themes and content.

Chapter One

American Literary Naturalism in the Nineteenth Century

Introduction

One remarkable intellectual trend, which emerged in America in the nineteenth century and which subsequently became a literary movement is Naturalism. American literary Naturalism developed out of literary Realism. Literary Naturalism shares some of Realism's characteristics because it has a concern with society and history. The goal of the present chapter is to supply a comprehensive account of literary Naturalism in America by giving its influences, characteristics, themes and styles of naturalists.

1.1 Naturalism

Naturalism is a word derived from nature; it is the suggestion that art and literature should present the world and people just as science shows they really are (High, 1986). Naturalism is almost not easy to define and sometimes used as synonym of Realism. It is more pessimistic trend and it originated in France around 1870 with the first novels of Emile Zola (Cunliffe, 1986). Naturalism was a literary movement of the late nineteenth century; it is an extension of Realism and developed out of it (The art of depicting nature as it is), it came as a reaction against the restriction inherent in the realistic focus of the ordinary, as naturalists insisted that extraordinary is real too.

Naturalists were writing about criminals, slums, labourers, strikers and prostitute; they attacked capitalism, but also explained society in Darwinist terms heredity and environment determine man in world where only the fittest survive (Grellet, 2009).

1.1.1 Historical Contexts

Naturalism, as a literary movement has been widely influenced by contemporary, social and intellectual context (Lehan, 2005). Two important factors that helped shaping the

ideas and techniques of Naturalism in American literature are: first, the influence of Darwinism and second, the influence of French literary Naturalism.

1.1.2 The Influence of Darwinism

In literature, Naturalism developed out of Realism. The significant influence that went to shape various points of view were Darwin's biological theories, Comte's application of scientific ideas to study society, and Taint's application of deterministic theories, they all concentrate on portraying social environment (Cuddon, 1977).

During the few decades that followed the Civil War, American society had witnessed significant changes, reconsidering traditional doctrines and beliefs and demanding new ways of living and thinking (Ahnebrik, 1961). One considerable factor which helped creating such shift was the impact of scientific development at that time; a new philosophy of life appeared based upon science (ibid). This scientific development gave different explanation of the world and life in the light of a diversity of ideas and theories.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882) had a big influence on American literary culture in the late nineteenth century. He presented a theory about evolution and critical publications which are "*On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection*" (1859) in which his ideas were based on that all behavior production are a matter of biological determine forces, that there is nothing transcendent in human life and "*The Descent of Man*" (1871). Darwinism ideas were manipulated in American author's appreciation, representation of civilization, human, nature, marriage, gender, race, the role of environment and heredity (Lamb& Thompson, 2005). Spencer the leading figure of what is known as social determinism coined the expression of "the survival of the fittest" which represents a social concept that parallels, to some extent, Darwin's biological concept of selection. Social Determinism advocated a new

kind of determinism of natural ability in which any intervention on behalf of the poor or weak would weaken the race (ibid).

The greatest revolution started in 1859 with the publication of Charles Darwin “*On The Origin of Species*. Sigmund Frued stated:”Darwin had dealt a great “biological blow to human narcissism”; compelling humankind to contemplate its place within the community of common descent” (Lamb& Thompson, 2005:377).

Darwin believed that all behavior productions are a matter of biological forces, that there is nothing transcendent in human life. The writing of Darwin and other evolutionists have widely been read by the new generation like Stephen Crane, Hamlin Garland, Frank Norris. So, Darwinian ideas had a significant impact on those writers. This era was characterized by the emergence of American Naturalists who were inspired by an advance of French Naturalism led by Emile Zola.

1.1.3 The Influence of French Literary Naturalism

The main thing that led to the foundation of American literary Naturalism as a narrative mode is the influence of French Naturalism. Zola was a French novelist, under him many realists became naturalists (High, 1986). He was widely affected by Darwin’s writing about heredity and environment and he attempted to change these ideas into literary form, as Pizer stated:

Zola believed that the literary imagination could make use of the ideas in books so long as the novelist functioned like a scientist observing nature and social data, rejecting supernatural and trashistorical explanation of the physical world, rejecting absolute standards of morality and free will, and depicting nature and human experience as a deterministic and mechanistic process. All reality could be explained by a biological understanding of matter, subject to natural laws, available in scientific term (Pizer, 1995:47).

Zola is regarded as the founding father of French literary Naturalism; he gave detailed descriptions of the era in his novels (Ahnebrink, 1961). Zola's novels stressed the importance of heredity and environment in determining character. Also, he emphasized on people acting in groups, where humanity becomes of important matter. American writers were influenced by Emile Zola who was a good fruit of Balzac and Flaubert in France. In *preface to Thérès Raquin* (1868), Zola describes himself as naturalist. His technique was scientifically clinical that pathologist and physiologist. In his perspective men's lives and actions were determined by environment and heredity. After *Thérès Raquin* he designed a cycle of twenty volumes (Rougon. Macquart, 1871-1893), which give the natural and social history of family. Out of these twenty novels the best known are *L'assommoire* (1877) and *Germinal* (Cuddon, 1998). In *La Débâcle* (1892), Zola spoke about the soldiers in Franco Prussian war and in *La Curée* (1872), he exposed the immorality of a wife who betrayed her spouse by having an incestuous affair with her stepson.

Zola influenced many writers in America, hence many realists became naturalists. Stephen Crane was the first naturalist in America; he wrote novels and short stories on the light of Naturalism such as *Maggie: A girl of the streets* (1893), *The Red Badge of Courage* (1845), *The Open Boat* (1898) and *The Experiment in Misery* (1894). Through those works Crane showed that the individuals are controlled by their environment; life and death are determined by fate and social injustice (High, 1986).

Hamlin Garland (1860-1940) was also American Naturalist. In *Main Travelled Roads* (1891) he protests against the conditions which made the lives of mid-western farmers so painful and unhappy. Garland was discussing the failure of American dream; he felt the Capitalists had destroyed the individual's freedom. Another American naturalist writer is Frank Norris (1870-1902). His novels are clearly influenced by Emile Zola; his characters are often unable to

control their own lives. His most important works are *Mc Teague* (1899), *The Octopus* (1901) and *pit* (1903) (High, 1986).

Eventually, all Zola's novels became known and influential and their renderings of fate, heredity and environment were adapted and developed within American context at the turn of the nineteenth century, by the works of Frank Norris, Stephen Crane and Hamlin Garland (Lamb & Thompson, 2005).

1.2 The Characteristics of American Literary Naturalism

In 1890, many realists became naturalists turned to be naturalists' Naturalism' this term refers to the idea that art and literature should depict the world and people just as science shows they really are (High, 1986). American literary Naturalism developed out of literary Realism and shares some of its characteristics (ibid).they are considered as overlapping discourses, developing side by side throughout the naturalist's decades, their works draw on common stock of literary devices, although they do so in different proportions and to different trimmings. Novelists of both of them seek to construct a unified social world to contain the threats of social changes.

Naturalism is characterized by its psychological foundation drawing upon sciences and especially upon Darwinism for its view of humanity. It came after Realism in the late nineteenth century (Skipp, 1992). So, for American Literature, Naturalism started to make a sense in the late of the nineteenth century after it was originated in France around 1870, with first novels of Emile Zola. It is more pessimistic trend (it is darker in tone) through which naturalists attacked the dehumanizing aspects of Capitalism (Grellet, 2009). The new generation of 1890 like Stephen Crane, Frank Norris, Theodore Dreiser and Jack London and the second naturalist figure Hamlin Garland broke free from howllisian manners novel which concentrated on the more smiling aspect of life (Lamb & Thompson, 2005).

Donald Pizer gave definition for Naturalism; he claimed that Naturalism is social Realism laced with the idea of determinism”. He also claimed that:” since Naturalism comes after Realism, it is an extension or continuation of Realism (Pizer, 1984:11). The only difference for him is the philosophical orientation of naturalists.

Naturalists portrayed their characters with little control over their lives whose fates were determined by heredity, environment and chance. Naturalists of 1890 wrote about the immigrants who lived in slums, criminals, labourers, strikers and prostitute (Cunliffe, 1986).

Since Naturalism came as an expansion of Realism, so it is a reaction against Romanticism. Naturalism deflates the claims of nature Romanticism, thus acting as the fiction of the closing frontier (Lamb& Thompson, 2005). Romanticism was an inadequate manner to describe the day happenings, which led to create false views about life, naturalists rejected the sentimentality of Romanticism, most of romantic novels were written for young female readers. On the light of this, Howells stated that: “the romantic novels make one forget life and its duties” (High, 1986:86).

Transcendentalism was also rejected by naturalists because it tries to depict human lives through feeling and intuition. The transcendental club’s magazine the Dial was criticized for its vague or silly ideas (ibid).

In showing the difference between Realism, Naturalism and Romanticism, Ferrell notes:

When the character seemingly controls the environment or the environment is shaped in such way to conform to the needs of characters, it becomes Romantic. When the environment appears to control the character, it is naturalistic. Realism appears in between; allowing some control over and some influence by the environment (Ferrell, 2000:48).

The Works of literary Naturalism exposed the dark harshness of life, including poverty, racism, prejudice disease, corruption prostitution and faith. So, naturalists were criticized for more concentrating on human vice and misery, their novels and stories had a strong sense that nature is indifferent to human struggle. In those novels we see always struggle between man and nature or man and himself. Naturalism was affected by Marxism and evolutionary theory.

The works of Naturalism were also concentrated on the filth society and the travailed of lower class, this became the main point of its writing , another important characteristic is the amazing twist that comes at the end of the plot , there is a strong sense in naturalism's stories and novels that nature is not affected by human struggle. Naturalist writing is almost always tells a tale where the individual at the mercy of large force. So, the key themes of American literary Naturalism were survival, determinism, violence, taboo¹.

Naturalism has a style that is often described as grim and depressing, its stories are often filled with characters that are poor uneducated and lower class who were seemingly has no free will or choice in their circumstances. So Naturalism is pessimistic view of Realism; this is its own style of writing²

1.3 Themes and Styles of Naturalists

Naturalist writers positioned themselves further from the center of literary field. Hamlin Garland (1860- 1940) was an American naturalist writer, his writing was a form of social protest. In his book *Main Travelled* (1891), he protests against the conditions which made the lives of Mid-western farmers so painful and unhappy. He describes places, people and events in a careful and factual manner, he describes poor, sad and farming town as the

¹ <http://www.wsv.edu/campilled/amlit/nature/html>.

² Ibid.

following: "Unpaved streets, drab colored, miserable rotting wooden buildings" (High, 1986:90).

His style was impressionistic¹, he mixes emotions, colors and sights. Norris (1870-1902), a California writer, he described the urbanization and incorporation of the west Coast (Lamb & Thompson, 2005). In *Mc Teague* (1899) he describes a California landscape in which a tremendous, immeasurable life pushed steadily heavenward without sound, without a motion, in the next paragraph; he describes the mechanical power which opposes it. It is a mining machine, which like monster: gnashing² the rocks to powder with its long iron teeth, voting them out again in the thin stream of gray wet. In his *The Octopus* (1901), he shows us the battle between California wheat farmers and the southern Pacific Roads. As in *Mc Teague*, we see the conflict between the power of nature (farmers) and the mechanical monster (the railroad). In *The Octopus* and then in *Pit* (1903), Norris uses wheat as the symbol of life, he makes it an almost religious symbol. So, Norris's works demonstrate well the theme of economic determinism (High, 1986).

Another American naturalist who expressed his themes through his works is Stephen Crane. He was famous by his novel «*Maggie: A girl of the streets*» in which he dealt with the theme of prostitution. The Irish families became in a world of Alcoholism and brutality. *Maggie* is a story about a pretty girl brought up in poor area of New York City. She seduced and rejected by neighborhood beau, she falls into prostitution (Lamb & Thompson, 2005). She was every day facing the violence and cruelty of society. Finally, she goes to the river; then she jumps in. Her death lives her relatives walling in self-pity (ibid). Also, Crane wrote «*The Red Badge of Courage*» (1895), in which he shows us how accidents of life make a young man seem to be a hero. This story set in the Civil War. It is story about Henry Fleming who

¹ Impressionistic : trying to give an impression without describing in detail

² Gnash : put the teeth together fiercely

runs like animal to save his life and it is story portrayed by Crane not for the history of Civil War but for the portrayal of psychological fear (Rozakis, 1999).

The Open Boat is regarded is a short story written by Crane in 1898, the story concerns the conflict between humanity and nature, it is ironic narrative combines attention to the natural elements sharks, gulls, clouds and waves to stylized language. It portrays the cruelty and indifference of environment (Lamb & Thompson, 2005).

Crane's style in descriptions of places and events are both realistic and poetic, his style is not like other naturalists because he uses colors and word-sound to create a wonderful impressions, he was genius with surprising, sympathy and imagination (High, 1986).

Also we find Theodore Dreiser (1871-1945), who was one of American greatest writers. He and his characters did not attack the puritanical moral code; they simply ignored it. When he wrote his novel *Sister Carrie* in 1900, he shocked the reading public. It is story about Carrie Meeber who leaves the poverty of her country home and moves to Chicago. She is honest for her hope for better life, Dreiser does not criticized her for this; but for her relationships with men; she is fairly modern in the way she moves from one man to another. Although, she success as an actress but at the end she learns that even money and success are not the keys of true happiness (ibid). *Sister Carrie's* real theme is purposeless of life; this theme runs all over Dreiser's novels. He sees the disorder and cruelty of life in general.

Naturalists of the 1980 wrote about the immigrants who lived in slums, they wrote about the illicit sexual affairs of young girls who had moved from farms to cities, they wrote about the individuals who neither understood themselves nor those around them (Applegate, 2002).

According to the style of naturalists; Naturalist authors use Symbolism to subtle a wealth of meaning in a few words or images, they use images to give an effective impressions. They were impressionistic in their writing (High, 1986).

Naturalists always use pessimistic tone in their stories and novels to describe the depression of their characters which are in state of suffering. Their style was unromantic filled with harsh words and meanings like violence, corruption, racism, poverty, etc (Lamb& Thompson, 2005). .

Conclusion

The first chapter has introduced an important intellectual trend which emerged in America in the late nineteenth century (1890) and which subsequently became a literary movement is Naturalism.

We have talked about the influences that shaped Naturalism, Naturalism's characteristics, themes and style of naturalists.

Chapter Two

American Society in the Nineteenth Century

Introduction

American society in the nineteenth century moved from the state of stability to the state of maturity. The life of American people changed in many different fields, it marked a big progress during the four decades of the nineteenth century. This period characterizes by the emergence of corporations, new inventions and transportation.

So, our second chapter reviews American society in the nineteenth century. It looks at the industries of American society, the great immigration that America had faced, the emergence of American city, American society and science and Stephen Crane life and works.

2.1 American society in the Nineteenth Century

The nineteenth century American society had known great periods of urbanization, immigration from the Southern and Eastern Europe and Asia and rapid industrialization. So, during these years American's identity changed from the stability to maturity (Lamb& Thompson, 2005).

2.1.1 American Industrial Society

From the era of reconstruction to the end of the 19th century the United States had witnessed an economic transformation marked by the quick expansion of big business, the development of agriculture, and the rise of industrial conflict. These developments led to the coming of immigrants from southern and Eastern Europe, from Asia and Mexico¹.

American society in the nineteenth century had witnessed a quick industrialization, in that America's great industries were marked by steel production, petroleum, the railroads (the essential means of transformation for business), electricity, textiles, meatpacking, the automobile and the tool making . As industrialization made all sectors of American economic

¹ WWW.directedessays.com/viewpaper./32249/html.

less labor-intensive, so the value of production per agricultural worker increased by 43 percent between 1870 and 1900, while the value of manufacturing and mining rose by 76 percent which meant that the nation could feed itself, and sell its produce throughout the world. At the same time period, farm production, despite their increase, dropped from 53 to 33 percent of nation's commodity output, while the manufacturing and mining rose from 53 to 58. The country big cities produce almost 40 percent of the manufactures which led to the coming of rural population searching for jobs (Lamb & Thompson, 2005).

The industrial expansion radically changed the face of nation's cities; noise, traffic jams, slums, air pollution and health problems became commonplace. The industries of American country consolidated in very rapid state into large and large entities, monopolies and consortia run by interlocking directorates. They were headed by powerful men. Between the mid of 1870 and 1914, America was characterized by strike every day, this conflict was strong and intensive. The railroad strike was the first nationwide strike in the American history. This involved not only the workers of railroads, but also farmers, craftsmen and unemployed who brought the Nation's railroad to standstill. Then, in 1886 there were almost fifteen hundred strikers, affecting half a million workers (ibid). But in 1890, there were strikers between two thousand took place every year (Lamb & Thompson, 2005).

The industrial revolution which came to America in the late nineteenth century made a great change in American life. This period saw the appearance of corporations, new inventions, transportation and communication.

2.1.2 Immigration

As we have seen above, the nineteenth century of American society was marked by immigration; immigrants were arriving from Southern and Eastern Europe and Asia, this led to unimaginable diversity of culture (Lamb & Thompson, 2005).

The urban population of the entire Nation enhanced from six million to twenty million, as displaced rural population from both home and abroad settled in urban areas (ibid).

The history of natives between 1864 and 1890 was characterized by broken treaties, forced relocation, new immigrants came to America between 1860 and 1900 they were coming from non Anglophone cultures, unlike the midcentury immigrants, they were Italians, Jews, Poles, Russians, Greeks, Chinese, Bohemians, Turks, Austro-Hungarians, Japanese and others. They were endured poverty, disease, crime, lack of economic opportunity (ibid).

The thing that led to the coming of immigrants is the interaction between social and economic conditions in Europe and those in America. America offered attractive possibilities to new immigrants.

The greatest wave of immigrants that America had saw in its story is the coming of European immigrants, they were estimated almost thirty million. So, America was the favored goal of the nineteenth century European immigrants. Immigration was the major factor in American life¹

2.1.3 The Emergence of the City

As people from around the world started to immigrate to America in big numbers during the nineteenth century; America begun to emerge and the city rose. The United States became large and self-confident; it became also, multicultural city (Lamb & Thompson, 2005). The industrial revolution of 19th transformed urban life and gave people superior expectations to

¹ <http://www.ushistoryscene.com/uncategorized/immigrants>.

improving their standard of living. The increased number of jobs, along with technological innovations in transportations and housing construction encouraged migration to Cities. The development of streetcars, trolleys and railroads in the nineteenth century enabled City's expansion.

The railroads helped for transformation of trade and travel, it activated industries like mining and production machine tools, and is indirectly rise immigration. The railroads were an agent and paradigm, an emblem of newer, more powerful and expansionist America (Gray, 2004).

Also, for entertainment and information Americans tuned for lectures, magazines and newspapers which they attacked literary personalities (ibid).

2.2 American Society and Science

During the nineteenth century American society faced significant changes in the way of living and thinking. One considerable factor which led to changes is the progress of science; new philosophy of life emerged based upon science.

The nineteenth American society is characterized by the rise of science, in that there was an active discuss about how nature should be presented. One extreme of this debate was naturalists who believe that poverty or literary art should kept divide from science (Bryson& Thompson, 2008). In all works they intended to present nature accurately and usefully, the observer, the perceiving self should be removed in order to maintain strike objectivity, which means that the subjectivity reduces the understanding of the world. For Romanticism Thoreau considered this theory of objective science an inhuman, he suggested that science should be biography, he claimed that:

The sum of what the writer of whatever class has to report is simply some human experience, whether he is poet or philosopher or man of

science. The man of the most science is the man most alive, whose life is the greatest event (Bryson& Thompson, 2008).

The scientific ecology developed during the late nineteenth century had a big effect on the lexicon and canonization of literature (Lamb& Thompson, 2005). Both intellectual elevation and social oppression resulted from the interpretations and misinterpretation of Charles Darwin's works. By his publication of *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1858), there was an overwhelming confusion around the world among intellectuals and religious men.

2.3 Stephen Crane Life and Works

Stephen Crane (1871-1900) is regarded by many critics to be the first American naturalistic writer. Unlike many of his contemporaries, who focused on characters' situations, Crane focused on their thoughts and feelings. This is obvious in his novels: *Maggie a girl of the streets* and *The Red Badge of Courage*.

Crane born in New Jersey and lived in New York State; he was the fourteenth and youngest child of Reverend Jonathan Townley Crane and Mary Helen Peck Crane. His mother was forty-five when Stephen was born, the children born before him had all died in infancy. His father, a graduate of the College of New Jersey, was the presiding elder of Methodist churches in the Newark district, and also an author committed to producing ten pages a day (Lamb& Thompson, 2005). The family was a large, happy one. As Stephen grew up, however, he found his parent's religion irrelevant to the difficult life he saw, because most of his writings were realistic, dealing with poor and sex (Bode, 1995).

Crane was a son of Methodist minister and the niece of a Methodist bishop, wrote essay for Methodist journals and New York and Philadelphia papers, gave lectures, and was a member of the women's Christian Temperance Union (Lamb& Thompson).

Crane attended Pennington Seminary, a coeducational Methodist boarding school in New Jersey where his father had served as principal in the 1850. Crane moved to New York City where he wrote occasionally for New York Herald and Tribune, he was seventeen. He started his career as writer.

In his journalism, fiction and poetry, he appears as the pioneer of Realism a rebel against the romantic ideals and illusion which were famous in the fiction in his time (Grellet, 2009).

Crane is regarded as the first American naturalist; he was not much influenced by the scientific approaches. According to Crane the environment is a tremendous thing in our world and frequently shapes lives regardless, he show how man is affected by the anger and indifference of society and also by heredity (ibid).

Crane's style was mixture of Realism, Naturalism and impressionism (Bode, 1995). He was characterized by the manipulation with colors and imagery in his works; he was genius with surprising, sympathy and imagination. He was unlike other naturalist because he uses colors and word-sound to create a wonderful expression. Crane was famous by his novel *Maggie: A girl of the streets* (1893), it is sad story of girl grew up in poverty, she is betrayed by her family and a friend at the end has to become a prostitute, she was facing violence every day. Finally, she jumps in the river. Crane's characters are controlled by their environment; this is what makes him naturalist (High, 1986).

Soon after in 1895, Crane published *The Red Badge of Courage: An Episod of American Civil War*. It is Crane' greatest novel, the events of War made a young man seems to be hero. It is realistically depicts the experience of Henry Fleming; a young infantry soldier in Union army, as he struggles to alive in one of the worst battles of The Civil War. Although, Crane had not any War experience, the novel was successful; it was serialized in newspapers and was

an immediate success. The demand for Crane's short stories started to enhance, he sent by newspapers to The West and the Mexico to collect information for stories (Bode, 1995).

Next, Stephen Crane published another short story which is *The Open Boat* (1898), Crane shows how even life and death are determined by fate (High, 1986). It is story about four men who were going to aid Cuban revolutionaries, Crane was one of them, He was shipwrecked and spent 27 hour at sea in small boat with three other men , this story discusses fear, courage and survival (Bode, 1995).

In 1899, Crane published a collection of poems named *The War Is Kind*; it discusses the theme that he discusses at the heart of his novels:

*A man said to the universe,
"sir, I exist!"
"However," replied the universe,
"The fact has not created in me
A sense of obligation (High, 1986:98).*

So, Crane's naturalism is far from Howells more smiling aspect of life.

Conclusion

As we have seen in this chapter, the nineteenth century of American society was characterized by a big development which led to the emergence of the city economically, scientifically, literally and culturally.

Chapter Three

*The Study of Form: Crane's Style, Language and the use of
literary Devices in The Open Boat*

Introduction

The Open Boat is a short story that has seven chapters, written by Stephen Crane in the late nineteenth century (1898), (the era of Naturalism) when he was working as War Correspondent. So, we find this story more appropriate to deal with such topic.

Our third chapter, sheds light on the study of *The Open Boat*, in our discussion we will try to study Crane' style, language and his use of literary devices to express his feelings and emotions.

3.1 Crane's Style in the Story

Stephen Crane is an important naturalist writer. In *The Open Boat*, the characters of the men are portrayed very realistically by the author. The men's attitudes and viewpoints are appreciated for their situation. Crane uses two realistic aspects: In the story Crane is the correspondent and *The Open Boat* is the real location of the story, which makes the story more believable. This is clear when Crane said:

*Many a man ought to have a bath-tub larger than the Boat
which here rode upon the sea* (Crane, 2009:11).

This words show us how men hope to have a large boat, but the indifference of nature obliged them to accept the accomplished fact and try to struggle for survive and for free themselves from the harsh sea. Crane wrote about sinking boat therefore, placing his characters at the mercy of nature (waves, open boat and sea), and here Crane shows us his Naturalistic practice.¹

Crane in his story intended to use literary devices (figurative language) for more understanding, he introduces the theme of struggle between men and the harsh sea, and among those literary devices we find Personification, Symbolism and Metaphor. Crane description of

¹<http://www.works.doklad.ru/view/NV-04Pqpuhc.html>.

places and events are both realistic (High, 1968). *The Open Boat* has to become the poster child of naturalism of Crane's use of imagery to portray nature's heartbreaking indifference. He compared the boat to bath-tub and the waves are 'slate walls' and they have snarling crests (Rozakis, 2009). Those similes symbolize men's state during their journey. Crane's use of imagery gives vivid images to the reader's mind. Crane said:

The craft pranced and reared, and plunged like an animal. As each wave came, and she rose for it, she seemed like a horse making at a fence outrageously high (Crane, 2009:13).

Crane shows us how men were at the mercy of craft which he named animal, animal her symbolizes danger, violence. This pessimistic Symbolism shows Naturalism, since it deals with violence, oppression, etc. Also, he made the craft looks like a horse.

3.1.1 Crane's language

The Open Boat is regarded as a work of naturalism in which Crane uses distinctive imageries, dialogue and monologue. Crane uses dialogue when the men were talking about houses of refuge and crews.

As soon as who see us?" said the correspondent.

"The crew "said the Cook.

"Houses of refuge don't have crews," said the correspondent.

"As I understand them, they are only places where clothes and grub are stored for the benefit of shipwrecked people. They don't carry crews."

"Oh, yes, they do," said the Cook.

"No, they don't," said the Correspondent (Crane, 2009:16-17).

Crane also uses monologue to express his pessimistic view, this is clear when he mentions

If I am going to be drowned—if I am going to be drowned—if I am going to be drowned, why in the of the seven mad gods, who rule the sea, was I allowed to come thus far and contemplate sand and trees?(Crane, 2009:57).

Here Crane intended to repeat “If I am going to be drowned” to express his profound pessimistic tone toward the gods who rule the sea.

Crane’s words express a pessimistic tone toward their bad situation in the sea, because he these words give us the meaning of hopelessness, violence like black shadow, darkness, coldness and gloom. Crane stated that:

The shadows on the sea slowly deepened. The wind bore coldness with it, and the men begun to shiver (Crane, 2009:46).

Coldness, shadows are words, which have the meaning of harshness, violence and hopelessness.

Crane in his story relies on descriptive language many phrases, sentences and figures of speeches describe the craft and how the situation of men changes from time to time till they arrived to shore. Example

Then after scornfully bumping a crest, she would slide, and race, and splash down a long incline and arrive bobbing and nodding in the front of the next menace (Crane, 2009:14).

From these words we recognize that the Boat was in state of change, this led the four men suffer. Crane’s use of descriptive language helps us to imagine the state of the boat.

Crane also use his descriptive language to describe the waves, he said that:

There was a terrible grace in the move of waves, and they came in silence, save for the snarling of the crests (Crane, 2009).

3.2 The use of Literary Devices

The Open Boat has to become the poster child of Naturalism because of Crane’s use of imagery to portray nature’s heartbreaking indifference (Rozakis, 1999). The imagery used in *The Open Boat* brings a vivid image to the reader’s mind, this makes Naturalism clear.

Since the story concerns the conflict between humanity and nature. So it is possible to use images to express how this conflict happened. In literature we call this phenomenon the use of literary devices. The following are some of literary devices that Crane uses in his story.

3.2.1 Symbolism

The word symbol derived from the Greek verb *symballein* ‘throw together’ and its noun is *symbolon* (sign). In literature we use symbols to represent real things, feelings, etc. hence literary symbol links an image with concept (words themselves are kind of symbol). It may be public or private, universal or local. It is the use of concrete image to express an emotion or an abstract idea (Cuddon, 1998). On other words, a symbol is anything that stands for or represents something else; Symbolism was 19th century literary movement whose followers tried to express emotions by using a pattern of symbols (ibid).

The Open Boat’s story contains different symbols:

-The Open Boat

The Boat which the men must cling to survive the seas, symbolizes human life bobbing along among the universe’s uncertainties. Crane made the boat seems like a bath tub (Rozakis, 1999), seems even smaller against the hugeness of the ocean. The boat is inconsequential and always in danger of capsizing. It is characterized by Open, which means that the boat is unprotected and thus open to suffering the unexpected turns of fortune that are unavoidable in life. For the men being in *The Open Boat* becomes the reality of their lives and they know from their experience on the boat that they had a little control over where they can go and what they can do. Through the boat crane implies that the life is not something we can control. Symbolism in Naturalism depicts danger, violence, from the name of open we recognize that the four men will suffer in the sea.

Crane mentions in the first chapter:

The craft pranced and reared and plunged like animal, the manner of her scramble is a mystic thing (Crane, 2009:13).

Crane wants us to know that the men were all controlled by the move of the boat; they have no free will or choice. Since Naturalism deals with the idea that the external forces control the individual, so the example that we have mentioned above emphasizes this idea.

Then after scornfully bumping a crest, she would slide, and race , and splashdown a long incline and arrive bobbing and nodding in the front of the next menace(Crane, 2009:14).

This example also emphasizes the same idea about Naturalism in that the men have no free will.

-The Sea and waves

The sea and waves in *The Open Boat* symbolize the indifference of nature toward men. They are heartless as teenage acne and they showed us how the survival on them is a matter of chance. Crane compared the waves to “slate walls” and “snarling crests (Rozakis, 1999). These are quotations which show us the violence of the sea and the waves toward the four men before they reached the shore:

These waves were all of the hue of slate, save for the tops, which were of the foaming white, and all of the men knew the colors of the sea. The horizon narrowed and widened and dipped and rose, and at all times its edge was jagged with waves that seemed thrust up in point like rocks (Crane, 2009:11).

Asingular disadvantage of the sea lies in the fact that after successfully surmounting one wave you discover that there is another behind it just as important and just as nervously to do something effective in the way of swamping boats (Crane, 2009:14).

In these examples, Crane makes clear that the sea with its waves is the location where the hope for survival is reduced and sometimes it is impossible.

-The Oiler's death

For Naturalism the individual can also be controlled by his fate. In the story the Oiler's death symbolizes the indifference of fate and how nature is arbitrary in how it chooses its victims, Oiler is the only one who is named in the story (Billie.....Billie, will you spell me) as though having marks for death, he is the only one who perishes at the end of the story (Rozakis, 1999).

The correspondent, schooled in the minor formulae: "thanks, old man." But suddenly the man cried: "what's that" He pointed a swift figure. The correspondent: "Go". In shallows, face downward, lay the Oiler. His forehead touched sand that was periodically, between each wave, clear of the sea (Crane, 2009:70).

This quotation supplies how the Oiler found death after a long suffering in the sea to reach the shore; he was not the master of his fate.

-The black shadow

The black shadow represents the gloom and hopelessness the sea offers to the men's situation. The overall picture of the black shadow is constantly presented to remind the reader how hopeless their situation is.

3. 2.2 Personification

Personification is the attribution of human qualities to inanimate objects. It is inherent in many languages through the use of gender (Cuddon, 1998). The story is full of personification especially when the author describes the move of the Boat on the sea under the threat of waves.

Personification is one of the characteristics of Naturalism. Crane uses personification in his story by humanizing nature. This is clear in his description of the horizon when he said:

The horizon narrowed and widened, and dipped and rose, and at all times its edge was jagged with waves that seemed thrust up in points like rocks (Crane, 2009:11).

Crane makes the horizon look like a human when he said widened, dipped and rose. This view of the horizon can be seen as the threat to the four men and it has become their enemy. Another example about Naturalism is when Crane describes waves as snarling. Here Crane gives animalistic persona to waves. The characters felt as if the waves were going to attack and devour them.

3.2.3 Metaphor

Metaphor is a way of expressing one idea by naming another thing which it can be compared not using “as” or “like” (High, 1986).

Naturalism does not deny metaphors. In fact *The Open Boat* contains this literary device. This is clear when Crane said:

The January water was icy, and he reflected immediately that it was colder than he had expected to find it off the coast of Florida (Crane, 2009:70).

Here Crane compared January water to icy which represents the surprising of men. After they decided to complete their way swimming they found water very cold. This made them hopeless again to save their life. So metaphor in this sense gives us a pessimistic view, according to this, Metaphor is more linked to naturalism.

Another example in the story, when Crane said at the end of the story: “They could then be interpreters” (Crane, 2009:77).

Crane saw the men as interpreters, interpreters of life and death. This means that they really experienced them in the sea.

Conclusion

The third chapter has examined Naturalism in the form of *The Open Boat's* story, through its literary devices Symbolism, Metaphor and Personification. Also, it has examined Crane's style and language to show his Naturalistic thinking.

Chapter Four

The Study of Content: Naturalistic Features in

The Open Boat

Introduction

After we have introduced the characteristics, themes and styles of American literary naturalism which came in the late of the nineteenth century, we come at the point where we study the most representative features of Naturalism in the content of the short story

4.1. An over view of *The Open Boat's* Short Story

The Open Boat is a story about four shipwrecked men who were the injured Captain, the oiler Billie the only one who named in the story, the Cook and the correspondent who is Crane himself, they float the crest of waves in the sea in their small boat(Crumbley, 2010).

The four men were take turns of rowing and bailing water when the waves crash into their small boat, they soon see land and even possible rescuers on shore, but the waves were so huge and big in their attempt to reach the shore, and the go back out. After two nights of suffering on the lifeboat they try to attempt to arrive the shore; their boat is swamped and the swim to the beach. Finally, unexpected thing happened is that Billie the most strong of the four drown in the attempt (ibid).

This story of sea is widely claimed as an example of literary naturalism because it discusses naturalistic themes and symbols; also, it emphasized the role of environment upon human characters, where nature is portrayed as uncaring.

4.2 Naturalism in *The Open Boat's* Themes

Since Crane is Naturalist, his works focus on the themes of naturalism. After my reading and thematic analysis of *The Open Boat* I have found that it discusses naturalistic themes like indifference of nature, survival and brotherhood, fate, hopelessness, and pessimism.

4.2.1 The Indifference of Nature

In this story naturalism is clearest in the indifference of nature to the plight of the four men, they have no control over their destinies and nature elements control everything; this is clear in the first lines of the story,

NONE of them knew the color of the sky. Their eyes were glanced level, and were fastened upon the waves that swept toward them (Crane, 2009:11).

These lines are simply expressing the idea that the four men could not see the sky because of great waves and sea spray crashing over them.

In addition, we can notice the indifference of nature when carefree birds came and begun to fly near and there, in this situation any gesture from the men will be danger on their life. Crane said that:

The Captain naturally wished to knock it away by with the end of the heavy painter, but he did not dare to do it, because anything resembling an empathic gesture would have capsized this freighted boat (Crane, 2009:21).

This quotation shows us how men were at the mercy of birds; those small birds controlled their life.

When the men arrived at point of waves became more anger and harsh, the men were in bad situation and begun to question silently why they were allowed to last this long if nature intended to drown them all along (Crumbley, 2010).

If I am to be drowned—if I am to be drowned—if I am to be drowned, why, in the name of the seven mad gods who rule the sea, was I allowed to come thus far and contemplate the sand and the trees?(Crane, 2009:57).

This quotation shows us how the seven gods of sea are injustice because the men worked hard in body and mind to reach the shore. The men begun to change their addresses in

the case that anyone survives to tell their families. “They then briefly exchanged some addresses and ambitions.” This is the indifference of nature.

In addition, we notice the indifference of nature when the four men worked hard but when they were about to arrive, their boat was down, so they obliged to complete their way swimming in unexpected coldness of January water. Crane sea this water as icy. “As the Captain advice three other men “if no help is coming, we might better try a run through the surf right away” (Crane, 2009:65).

Eventually, since the works of naturalism focus on the filth society and travailed of the lower class and naturalist writing is almost tells a tale where the individuals at the mercy of large force, so the indifference of nature is regarded as main particularity of naturalism.

4.2.2 Survival and Brotherhood

Another theme in this story is brotherhood for survive which represents the claim of Naturalism; the four men were fighting against great force of nature which is the sea.

It would be difficult to describe the subtle brotherhood that was here established in the seas. No one said that it was so
(Crane, 2009:26).

Fellowship helped them to pass the obstacles of the sea, this brotherhood started from the early beginning of the story when one bailing waters from the boat another pull with one oar, etc.

The characters throughout all the story acting as best friends aiming for the same point which is survival. The latter was discussed in many naturalistic works in which the characters fighting against great force that control their lives, opinions and fate.

4.2.3 Fate and Determinism

Crane's deterministic view of life, primarily influenced by Darwinism (Lamb & Thompson, 2005). This is clearly shown in *The Open Boat*. In the story the life of the men is controlled by their fate.

The characters were all fighting to survive but at the end cook, correspondent and the captain survive but the only who died is Billie in the surf while trying to reach the shore (Lauter, 2010). Oiler's death was surprising twist:

The correspondent, schooled in the minor formulae, said: "Thanks, old man." But suddenly the man cried: "What's that? He pointed a swift figure. The correspondent said: "Go". In shallows, face downward, lay the Oiler. His forehead touched sand that was periodically, between each wave, clear of the sea (Crane, 2009:70).

These lines show us how oiler's life is controlled by his fate after a two nights and days of struggle in harsh sea. Although he is the strongest of the four men, he is the only one who died; he was not the master of his fate. As though having the identity marks the person for death (Rozakis, 1999).

Crane shows us how fate controls human life.

Finally, the critic Patrik Dooley points out that:

Through their confrontation of indifferent universe. The survivors appreciate both the limits and the possibilities of human effort and human community (Crumbley, 2010:94).

4.2.4 Pessimism

Pessimistic tone in the story represents Naturalism. The four men have a pessimistic tone through the story to express their plight, this is clear in the repetition of "If I am going to be drown, If I am going to be drowning , If I am going to be drown" , "If we never get a shore, If we do not get ashore".

Naturalism is often described as grim and depressing, filled with poor uneducated characters that have no free will of choice in their circumstances. It depends on pessimistic tone. The tone of Crane's characters is pessimistic; this is clear when he said:

If we do not all get shore...."said the Captain. If we do not all get ashore, I suppose you fellows know where to send news of my finish?
(Crane, 2009:35).

Here the captain expresses his sadness by repeating 'if we do not all get a shore' this repetition makes the pessimistic tone very clear.

Another example is when crane said:

If I am to be drowned—if I am to be drowned—if I am to be drowned, why, in the name of the seven mad gods who rule the sea, was I allowed to come thus far and contemplate the sand and the trees
(Crane, 2009:57).

From these lines, we recognize that Crane represents a pessimistic tone toward the seven gods who rule the sea; it is clear in the repetition of 'if I am going to be drown.'

4.2.5 Hopelessness

The theme of hopelessness runs through the entire story, which contributes to its cynical and morbid view of life. From the beginning to the end of the story, characters never seem to be free of peril. The four men are always struggling against something waves, shark. Crane said that:

The wind came again. It had veered from the northeast to the southeast. Finally, new sound struck the ears of the men in the boat (Crane, 2009:31).

This quotation makes clear that the four men are always hopeless because they are not agents of free will. Crane's characters left to randomness of external forces that is fate (Oiler's death after hard work to save his life) and nature (ocean, waves and shark) .This theme represents a pessimistic tone in the story.

Another example that Crane has mentioned, when he say that:

A singular disadvantage of the sea lies in the fact that after successfully surmounting one wave you discover that there is another

behind it just as important and just as nervously anxious to do something effective in the way of swamping boats (Crane, 2009:14).

Here Crane mentions the main disadvantage of the sea in general to make clear that Cook, Oiler, Correspondent and Captain from the beginning of the story to the end are at the mercy of sea changes, which let the four men hopeless throughout the story.

4.3 Crane's Descriptive writing on Naturalism in *The Open Boat*

Crane writes very descriptively to convey vivid mental images in reader's mind about people, places and things to give better understanding for the story; this is clear in the following examples:

The cook squatted in the bottom and looked with both eyes at the six inches of gunwale, which separated him from the ocean. His sleeves were rolled over his fat forearms, and the two flaps of his unbuttoned vest dangled as he bent to bail out the boat (Crane, 2009:11-12).

In this example, Crane describes the state of the Cook when he bent to bail out the boat he gives us an image about his sleeves, vest, eyes, forearms and the boat. Therefore, through this vivid image Crane helps us to understand the state of the Cook.

Crane also describes Oiler's state, when he said:

The Oiler, steering with one of the two oars in the boat, sometimes raised himself to keep clear of water that swirled in over the stern. It was a thin little oar and it seems often ready to snap (Crane, 2009:12).

From this description we notice that Crane uses adjectives like thin, little to give us an image about how the oar was, also he shows us how the Oiler was careful, in that he sometimes raised himself to have a look to the water over the stern (Crane, 2009).

In addition to that, Crane's description of things has vivid images, this clear when he described the seat in the boat, he said:

A seat in this boat was not unlike a seat upon a bucking broncho, and, by the same token, a broncho is not much smaller (Crane, 2009:13).

Here Crane describes the boat by makes it looks like bucking broncho, but broncho is not much smaller.

The Open Boat's story gives Crane an advantage to be descriptive; it is descriptive story has sense of Naturalism, because it discusses violence, oppression, survival and fate. Crane uses descriptive language to show his naturalism. This what naturalist and impressionist Walcut has asserted and said that” Crane’s writings on naturalism are very descriptive¹ In addition, Crane uses descriptive language because this story concerns the conflict between unyielding sea and four men. It helps him to give accurate events (Crumbely, 2010).

4.4 Struggle

In this story, the four men struggle with harsh sea to free themselves from its violence and oppression. This violence and oppression started from the start of the story When Crane said:

NONE of them knew the color of the sky. Their eyes glanced level, and were fastened upon the waves that swept toward them (Crane, 2009:11).

Here, the four men know nothing just waves, their eyes fixed only on the waves that swept toward them; they forget even the color of sky and what is important for them is how they can pass those violent waves, which were of foaming white. From this quotation, we understand that the men want to free themselves from these harsh waves.

Another example of struggle is when The Cook bent to bail out the boat, the oiler steering with one of the two oars in the boat, the Correspondent pulling with the other oar and the Captain directs them(Crane, 2009).

In Addition to that, struggle is clear in the story when the bird came and looked at the Captain’s head.

His black eyes were fixed wistfully upon the Captain’s head “ugly brute” said the Oiler to the bird. The cook and the Correspondent swore darkly at the creature (Crane, 2009:20-21).

¹ WWW.customessaymeister.Com/customessays/literature/18031.html.

Here all Cook, Captain, Correspondent and Oiler hope to knock the bird away, they were corporate to let the bird leave, the Oiler said “Ugly brute”, and Cook and Correspondent swore darkly the bird. In addition, Crane wants us to recognize that the four men were one hand on the sea to struggle for survive and for free themselves from the danger ocean when he said:

It would be difficult to describe the subtle brotherhood of men that was here established on the seas. No one said it was so. No one mentioned it. But it dwelt in the boat, and each man felt it warm him (Crane, 2009:26).

Furthermore, after two nights and days of struggle, the four men saw land; they complete their struggle by swimming, this is clear when the captain said that:

If no help is coming, we might better try a run through the surf right was (Crane, 2009:65).

Although, the men were tired, they made another attempt to reach the shore which is swimming.

Conclusion

As we have seen in this chapter, *The Open Boat* contains naturalistic features. We have examined Naturalism through its themes: pessimism, fate, hopelessness, survival, etc.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

American society in the nineteenth century had witnessed many changes and progresses in different fields. This led the American society to move away from the state of stability and approach the state of maturity. American's life changed in various fields especially in literature. This study studies an important literary movement in American history which is Naturalism; it emerged in America in the second half of the nineteenth century after it appeared in France by Emile Zola.

Mainly based on a thematic analysis in our methodology we have shown the most important features of Naturalism in Crane's short story *The Open Boat*. We have divided our work into four chapters. In the first chapter we have examined the influences characteristics of Naturalism, styles and themes of naturalist writers. In the second chapter we have dealt with a look at American society, its industries, immigration, science, the emergence of the city and crane's life and works. The third chapter has examined Crane's language, Style, the use of literary device in the story and the fourth chapter has aimed to highlight the most important naturalistic features shown in *The Open Boat* through its themes and content.

After our discussion and analysis we come to the realization that Naturalism has manifested itself in the content of the story through *The Open Boat's* themes and it has manifested itself in the form of the story through Crane's language, style and his use of imageries. In addition, the naturalist features presented in the story are representation of American Literary Naturalism in general. Also, Naturalism is an expression of the late nineteenth century American Literature and *The Open Boat* is a clear representative work of American literary Naturalism. We have shown that through the content by referring to plot and themes; we have also shown that through the study of the form through analyzing Crane's language and through showing the ways in which naturalist techniques function in the text.

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Abstract

This dissertation studies American literary Naturalism. We seek to show the ways in which Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat* is representative of the most salient features of American Naturalism. In fact we seek to show not only the content but also the form are examples of naturalist features. The present work is divided into four chapters. In the first chapter we review the characteristics of Naturalism, through styles and themes of naturalist writers. The second chapter is an over view of American society, its industries, immigration, science, the emergence of the city and Crane's life and works. The third chapter examines Crane's language, Style, the use of literary devices in the story and the fourth chapter aims at highlighting the most important Naturalistic features present in *The Open Boat* through its themes and content.

Key words: *Naturalism, Stephen crane, The Open Boat, Thematic Theory, American literature.*

المخلص

تركز هذه الدراسة على التوجه الطبيعي الأدبي الأمريكي. نحاول إظهارا لنواحي التي تكون فيها أقصوصة ستيفن كرين القارب المفتوح النموذج المثالي لخصائص التيار الطبيعي البارزة. في الحقيقة نريد إظهار خصائص هذا التيار ليس في المعنى فقط لكن أيضا في الشكل.

تنقسم هذه الدراسة إلى أربعة فصول. نحاول في الفصل الأول منها إبراز العوامل المؤثرة، خصائص، أساليب و مواضيع التيار الطبيعي من خلال أسلوب و مواضيع الطبيعيين. أما الفصل الثاني فيدرس المجتمع الأمريكي مظاهره الصناعية، مشكل الهجرة، العلوم و نشوء المدنية كما تتحدث الدراسة عن حياة كرين و أعماله. الفصل الثالث فيتناول لغة كرين أسلوبها واستعماله للأدوات الأدبية في الأقصوصة والفصل الأخير فيهدف إلى تسليط الضوء على خصائص التيار الطبيعي الأكثر أهمية التي تقدمها أقصوصة القارب المفتوح من خلال المواضيع و المحتوى التي تناولته.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التيار الطبيعي، ستيفن كرين، القارب المفتوح، النظرية الموضوعاتية، الأدب الأمريكي