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Diplomová práce

Motiv faustovství v anglo-americké
literatuře
Faustian Motif in Anglo-American
Literature

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Abstract

This diploma thesis undertakes an analysis of the Faustian motif in the Anglo-American literature. The analysis contains eight literature works of Irish, English and American writers. Four of them are Irish and the first is a novel called *The Picture of Dorian Gray* written by Oscar Wilde. The other three works are short stories. "The Miraculous revenge" was written by George Bernard Shaw. "Sir Dominick's Bargain" was written by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu and the third work was written by Flann O'Brien called "Faustus Kelly". Two of them are English and it is a drama called *Doctor Faustus* written by Christopher Marlowe and the other one is a short story "The Painter's Bargain" written by William Makepeace Thackeray. The last work is American and it is a short story called "The Devil and Tom Walker" written by Washington Irving. All these works will be analyzed, summarized, compared and contrasted individually as well as to each other.

Anotace

Diplomová práce analyzuje smlouvy s ďáblem faustovského motivu v anglo-americké literatuře. Analýza zahrnuje sedm prací z Irska, Anglie a Ameriky. Čtyři díla jsou od irských autorů. Prvním z nich je novela Oscara Wilda *Obraz Doriana Graye*. Další tři díla jsou krátkými příběhy. „Zázračná pomsta“ Georga Bernarda Shawa, „Pakt Sira Dominika“ Josepha Sheridana Le Fanu a „Faustus Kelly“ Flanna O’Briena. Další dvě práce jsou anglického původu. *Doktor Faustus* Christophera Marlowa a „Malířův pakt“ Williama Makepeace Thackerého. Poslední práce je od amerického autora, a sice „Ďábel a Tom Walker“. Všechny práce jsou shrnuty, rozebrány a porovnány jak jednotlivě, tak mezi sebou.

Obsah

1.	Introduction.....	8
2.	Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe	9
2.1	Basic features of the play	9
2.2	The plot.....	10
2.3	Analysis	23
3.	William Makepeace Thackeray – The Paris Sketch Book: The Painter’s Bargain... ..	25
3.1	Basic features of the story.....	25
3.2	The Plot.....	26
3.3	Analysis	31
4.	The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde.....	33
4.1	Basic features of the story.....	33
4.2	The Plot.....	33
4.3	Analysis	41
5.	Faustus Kelly by Myles na gCopaleen.....	45
5.1	Basic features of the story.....	45
5.2	The plot.....	45
5.3	Analysis	49
6.	The Miraculous revenge by George Bernard Shaw	51
6.1	Description of Zeno’s character.....	51
6.2	The Plot.....	53
6.3	Analysis	55
7.	Sir Dominick’s Bargain: A legend of Dunoran by J. Sheridan Le Fanu.....	56
7.1	Basic Features of the Story	56
7.2	The Plot.....	57
7.3	Analysis	61
8.	Washington Irving -The world of Washington Irving: The Devil and Tom Walker	62
8.1	Basic features of the story.....	62

8.2	The Plot.....	63
8.3	Analysis	67
9.	Conclusion	68
9.1	Comparison.....	68
9.2	Contrast.....	69
9.3	Final Summary.....	71
10.	Resumé.....	72
11.	Bibliography	74
11.1	Literature.....	74
11.2	Internet sources	74

1. Introduction

In my diploma thesis I am going to examine a motif of the pact with the devil in the Anglo-American literature. I chose four works which I have analyzed in my bachelor thesis the theme of which was the same motif only in Irish literature of 19th and 20th century. It is a novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900) and three short stories called “The Miraculous Revenge” by George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950) who won a Nobel Prize during his life, “Sir Dominick’s Bargain” by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu who was well-known for his horror writing and the short drama called “Faustus Kelly” by Flann O’Brien (1911 - 1966). In addition to this four other works were examined such as the drama *Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe (1564 – 1593) who was famous for being in a secret league around sir Walter Raleigh. There was a rumor that his league is close to necromancy and satanic rituals. Next one is “The Painter’s Bargain” by William Makepeace Thackeray (1811 – 1863) who, for example, did not finish his studies at Cambridge but instead met with Goethe, the author of the masterpiece *Faust* during his travels across Germany. ¹ The last but one is “The Devil and Tom Walker” by the American writer Washington Irving (1783 – 1859) who was the first famous prose writer of American romanticism.

The conclusion at the end of my diploma work as well as summarization comparison, contrast of all of the stories rounds off the analysis. The works are being examined from widest possible spectrum of features which should lead to a better understanding of these diabolic pacts. Every work contains one person who willingly makes a bargain with the devil or some representative of Satan. Their character, temperament, their social status and motivation for making the pact is investigated. An important part of the research is to observe both of the most important characters before and after they have “shaken hand with the devil” but also the secondary characters around them are examined.

¹ <http://www.spisovatele.cz/william-makepeace-thackeray>

2. Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe

2.1 Basic features of the play

The drama is written for the stage using many dialogues and direct speeches. It is a tragedy in five acts. The novel is written in the age of renaissance so the language used contains many expressions from old English as well as quite a lot of expressions from Latin. At some points the story is supported by scientific or philosophical facts of that age such as when Faustus asks Mephostophilis all kinds of questions about cosmos.

Doctor Faustus is an unusually intelligent man whose biggest desire is achieving a certain level of knowledge. He is even willing to sacrifice his own soul to fulfill his dreams.

The historical character who was holder of the name Faustus and who was model for this novel and the whole legend was apparently Doctor Johannes Faustus living between the years 1485 and 1540 A.D. There are two sources which can prove this statement such as a letter from Konrad Mudt to Henrich Urban. Some of the sources refer to Faustus as an imposter and charlatan. Basel's pastor Johan Gast (died 1572) was the first who attributed Faustus with supernatural powers in his work called "Sermones covivales". Gast was convinced that Faustus was dragged out of this world by a devil around 1525 A.D.²

Doctor Faustus comes from town called Rhode but was raised by his relatives in Wittenberg. He excelled in the field of science and "shortly he was graced with

² MARLOWE, Christopher. *Doktor Faustus : tragédie o pěti dějstvích (14 obrazech)*. Praha: Dilia, 1969, 88-89).

doctor's name"³ he excelled in disputes about heavenly matters and God's glory. He gets bored and that is why he bids the science farewell and wants to be distinguished in the field of magic or more precisely in dark magic.

2.2 The plot

The plot of the play begins with chorus describing the setting as well as the life of Doctor Faustus until he has finished his studies thinking about his future specialization and the first act is about start.

Faustus sees a possibility of being a priest while he studies and understands science, concretely the works of Aristoteles "Bene disserare est finis logices, is to dispute well logic's chiefest end?"⁴ or being a Doctor where he mentions, that the true power which would lead to an appreciation of the widest possible spectrum of people, to bring the dead back to living or Roman law. He also studies ecclesiastical jurisdiction where he finds out that "the reward of sin is death".⁵ Finally he decides to master the art of magic. "A sound magician is a demi-god!"⁶ At this moment the Good and Bad angels appear to him. The good one wants to stop him from getting on the wrong path while the Bad one encourages him. After this apparition there occurs the only moment he thinks of using his potential future skills for a personal enrichment and power when, for example, he says "I'll

³ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 23.

⁴ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 24.

⁵ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 25.

⁶ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 26.

levy soldiers with the coin they bring and chase the Prince of Parma from our land and reign sole king of all the provinces!”⁷

Valdés and Cornelius enter the scene because Faustus has called for them so they can advise him on this matter. Faustus greets them and immediately starts sharing his feelings “Philosophy is odious and obscure, both law and physics are for petty wits, divinity is basest of the three—Unpleasant, harsh, contemptible, and vile. Tis magic, magic, that hath ravished me!”⁸

Valdés and Cornelius have some experience with magic so they encourage Faustus to be a magician too. Cornelius tells him “The miracles that magic will perform will make thee vow to study nothing else.”⁹

After some time Faustus meets the devil for the first time. He wants to practice his magic so he calls for the devil to fulfill his wishes. Mephostophilis enters the scene and Faustus says

“I charge thee to return and change thy shape, thou art too ugly to attend on me. Go, and return an old Franciscan friar: That holy shape becomes a devil best.”¹⁰

Mephostophilis obeys his command and returns back to hell. Faustus comments on this situation with these words “How pliant is this Mephostophilis, full of obedience and humility, such is the force of magic and my spells.”¹¹

Mephostophilis comes back in the shape of Franciscan friar and asks Faustus for his wishes. Faustus tells him his one and only wish

“I charge thee wait upon me whilst I live to do whatever Faustus shall command, be it to make the moon drop from her sphere or the ocean to overwhelm the world.”¹²

⁷ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 26.

⁸ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 29.

⁹ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 28-29.

¹⁰ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 32.

¹¹ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 33.

Mephostophilis responds “I am a servant to great Lucifer and may not follow thee without his leave. No more than he commands must we perform.”¹³ Faustus is a bit surprised because he thought that Mephostophilis have come on the order of Lucifer but Mephostophilis explains to him that he came from his own will. We can see that this is another similarity of Hell with Christian heaven as we know it which means that devils have a certain kind of autonomy as do angels.

Mephostophilis explains to Faustus how to reach a true power in magic by saying: “the shortest cut for confuring is stoutly to abjure the Trinity and pry devoutly to the prince of hell.”¹⁴ Faustus immediately responds

“So Faustus hath already done, and holds this principle. There is no chief but only Belzebub: to whom Faustus doth dedicate himself. This word “damnation” terrifies not me for I confound hell in Elysium.”¹⁵

Mephostophilis explains Lucifer’s personality; for example he says that Lucifer was originally an angel but God refused to keep him at his side because of his pride and ambitions. Faustus asks the devil how is it possible that he could get out of hell assuming that all devils are fallen ghosts alongside with Lucifer sentenced to live in hell forever. Mephostophilis answers

“Why this is hell, nor am I out of it. Think’st thou that I who saw the face of God and tasted the eternal joys of heaven am no tormented with ten thousand hells in being deprived of everlasting bliss?”¹⁶

¹² MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 33.

¹³ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 33.

¹⁴ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 33.

¹⁵ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 33-34.

¹⁶ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 34.

Faustus cannot really feel what is it like to be in heaven and that is why he inconsiderably sends the devil back to his lord with the offer he made saying “and scorn those joys thou never shalt possess.”¹⁷

The next scene from the drama is the dialogue between Robin the clown and Wagner who is the butler and student of Faustus. Robin is in a good mood but without any money. Wagner knows that he can take advantage of his situation and offers him some money in exchange for his services for seven years. Robin accepts the money but right after he wants to cancel the deal, finding out what he has to do and trying to give money back to Wagner but Wagner wants to demonstrate his skills as well as that he wants to have his own servant too and summons two devils to make order in the situation. Robin gets scared of them and promises to serve Wagner according to the original deal. Thus ends the first act.

The second act begins with Faustus thinking about God’s mercy and damnation in his study room.

“Now, Faustus, must thou needs be damned; Canst thou not be saved! What boots it then to think on God or heaven? Away with such vain fancies, and despair—Despair in God and trust in Belzebub!”¹⁸

He decides to continue in his magic rather than wait and pray for God’s mercy because he does not believe that he can be redeemed.

While he is thinking, two angels enter the room. One is good and the other one is bad. Each of them wants to persuade Faustus to choose their way of life. He can either live according to the holy testaments or hope for salvation or he can use magic and be acknowledged in his field. In this moment Faustus already knew which way to choose. “When Mephostophilis shall stand by me what power can

¹⁷ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 35.

¹⁸ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 38.

hurt me? Faustus, thou art safe. Cast no more doubts.”¹⁹ Persuaded he is doing the right thing, he calls for Mephostophilis to ask him what comments his lord Lucifer made about his offer. Mephostophilis answers “That I shall wait on Faustus whilst he lives, so he will buy my service with his soul.”²⁰ After that Mephostophilis explains to Faustus that he must sign the deed with his own blood, he also explains the reason that this is the way Lucifer enlargens his kingdom.

Mephostophilis asks again “But tell me, Faustus, shall I have thy soul—And I will be thy slave and wait on thee and give thee more than thou hast wit to ask?”²¹ Faustus agrees to give his soul again and is exhorted to stab his arm with courage to confirm the deed of gift so one day Great Lucifer can come to claim his soul. For the last time Faustus thinks about this pact when his blood become stiffer but the devil comes rushing with a lighted candle to make it run smoothly again and finishes writing the deed of gift with his signature.

After that Mephostophilis organizes a little entertainment for Faustus by summoning a few devils as a demonstration of his skills and power. The devils get Faustus dressed in some valuable clothes and dance for him. When the show is over Mephostophilis informs Faustus that he will be able of doing even more and Faustus reacts with words: “Then, Mephostophilis, receive this scroll, a deed of gift of body and soul. But yet conditionally that thou perform all covenants and articles between us both.”²² and Mephostophilis assures Faustus by saying: “Faustus, I swear by hell and Lucifer to effect all promises between us both.”²³

The exact wording of the deed of gift is this:

¹⁹ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 39.

²⁰ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 39.

²¹ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 40.

²² MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 41-42.

²³ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 42.

“On these conditions following: First, that Faustus may be a spirit in form and substance. Secondly, that Mephostophilis shall be his servant and be by him commanded. Thirdly, that Mephostophilis shall do for him and bring him whatsoever. Fourthly, that he shall be in his chamber or house invisible. Lastly, that he shall appear to the said John Faustus at all times in what form or shape soever he please: I, John Faustus of Wittenberg, Doctor, by these presents, do give both body and soul to Lucifer, prince of the east, and his minister Mephostophilis, and furthermore grant unto them that, four and twenty years being expired and these articles above written being inviolate, full power to fetch or carry the said John Faustus, body and soul, flesh, blood, or goods, into their habitation wheresoever. By me John Faustus.”²⁴

The deal is done the contract is signed. Mephostophilis immediately offers his services to Faustus. The first thing Faustus wants to know is where the heaven can be found where the exact location is. The devil answers

“Within the bowels of these elements where we are tortured and remain forever. Hell hath no limits nor is circumscribed in one self place, but where we are is hell, and to be short, when all the world dissolves and every creature shall be purified all places shall be hell that is not heaven!”²⁵

The devil tells him that he will be damned according to the deed of gift. Faustus however does not believe a word he says. Mephostophilis assures him that he is a classic example of it. This is an interesting situation because at this point Faustus does not believe even to the devil that there is something else after this life.

The next wish Faustus has is to have a beautiful wife. At first Mephostophilis presets a devil dressed as a woman with fireworks. Of course Faustus can see through this trick and unequivocally rejects this bogeyman and the devil promises

²⁴ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 42.

²⁵ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 43.

to bring him “the fairest courtesans”²⁶ every day. The devil also presents Faustus with the Book of Spells instructing him

“The iterating of these lines brings gold; Ther framing of this circle on the ground brings thunder, whirlwinds, storm and lightning; Pronounce this thrice devoutly to thyself, and men in harness shall appear to thee, ready to execute what thou command’st.”²⁷

The drama also contains information about summoning ghosts, all astronomy or herbal of all plants, herbs and trees that can be found on the Earth.

In the next passage Faustus and Mephostophilis are in the study room and Faustus says: “When I behold the heavens, then I repent and curse thee, wicked Mephostophilis, because thou has deprived me of those joys.”²⁸ This moment is a beginning of his fear of not entering heaven. It happened quite soon after the signing the deed of gift that Faust’s fear becomes apparent and that is why the whole contract needed to be written on paper. If that would not happen, Faustus would not be so scared so soon after the signing. The two angels enter the study room and Faustus has an internal doubts again. Should he repent and wait for God’s pity or continue in the forbidden way and in the end Faustus says: “Why should I die then or basely despair? I am resolved, Faustus shall not repent!”²⁹ Then they talk about astrology until Faustus asks the devil who created the world which is a question that the devil does not want to answer. Faustus thinks about God as the creator of the World and the devil angrily leaves.

The two angels enter the room and the good one tries to persuade Faustus that he can still be redeemed by repenting for his sins while the Bad one is claiming the opposite. Then they both leave again and Lucifer, Belzebub and

²⁶ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 44.

²⁷ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 44.

²⁸ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 44.

²⁹ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 45.

Mephostophilis enter the room. Lucifer says: “Christ cannot save thy soul, for He is just. There’s none but I have interest in the same.”³⁰ and adds together with Belzebub “We are come to tell thee thou dost injure us. Thou call’st on Christ contrary to thy promise. Thou should’st not think on God. Think on the Devil. And his dam too.”³¹

Faust thinks that they have come for his soul but it is not the reason of their visit. As a kind of entertainment they present Faustus the seven deadly sins it is Pride, Covetousness, Envy, Wrath, Gluttony, Sloth and Lechery. They appear and act as humans and Faustus is allowed to question them about their dispositions. They all leave back to hell and Faustus asks Lucifer whether there is a possibility that he could see how the hell looks and Lucifer agrees and leaves together with Belzebub. Thus ends Act Two.

The third act begins with chorus. Faustus has traveled and seen many things together with Mephostophilis such as the town of Trier or “From Paris next, coasting the realm of France”³² and has decided to visit the Pope in Rome during Holy Peter’s Feast and that is why the devil have moved them to the palace of the Pope. They want to do some sightseeing in Rome and then visit the Pope. The interesting thing here is that Mephostophilis is not scared a bit from being in presents of His Holiness. They do not want to be tied up by anything during their visit so they make themselves invisible. They are teasing Pope, for example, by taking some of his food from his plate etc. Strange things are happening there so the monks bring a bell, book and candle for the dirge to get rid of those bad ghosts by singing the dirge.

In the fourth act the Book of Spells gets stolen and returned back to Faustus by Mehphostophilis. We can also see as Faustus uses his magic to summon a ghost of

³⁰ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 48.

³¹ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 48.

³² MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 54.

Alexander the Great and his lover according to the wish of the German emperor while visiting him. He also shows off his skills when he wants to punish Benvolio by creating horns on his head using magic. After this trick Benvolio tries to kill Faustus by cutting off his head but Faustus cannot be killed within 24 years according to the contract.

Faustus then sells a horse created by magic to the horse-courser for 40 dollars. Faustus sells the horse with a warning that he is not allowed to step into water. The horse-courser does not belong to the rich nor the intelligent and right after the trade he takes the horse to water. The horse-courser comes back furious and when he tries to wake Faustus up he accidentally rips his leg off. It is no big deal to Faustus but as a form of punishment he makes the horse-courser pay 40 dollars more.

The last important moment we should mention in this passage is when Faustus uses his magic to conjure ripe grapes for the Duchess of Vanholt during the winter time and by conjuring we mean that he sent Mephostophilis for it. Thus ends Act Four

The fifth act begins with Wagner in the study room when he says: "I think my master means to die shortly. He has made his will and given me his wealth: his house, his goods and story of golden plate:"³³ after that Faustus, Mephostophilis and three scholars enter the room. First scholar asks Faustus whether he remembers their debate about "Fair ladies"³⁴ when they all together came to the conclusion that the most beautiful lady on the world had to be Helen of Greece and then asks him if he could show her to them. Faustus agrees and Mephostophilis brings Helen of Greece to them. They are all astonished by her beauty.

³³ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 89.

³⁴ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 90.

The scholars leave and the old man enters the scene. He talks with Faustus about salvation trying to convince him to repent. Faustus says: “Accursed Faustus! Wretch, what hast thou done! I do repent, and yet I do despair: Hell strives with grace for conquest in my breast! What shall I do to shun the snares of death?”³⁵ This quote makes Mephostophilis angry “Thou traitor Faustus, I arrest thy soul for disobedience to my sovereign lord. Revolt, or I’ll in piecemeal tear thy flesh.”³⁶ Faustus realizes his mistake and asks Mephostophilis to pardon him by resigning the old vow he made to Lucifer by his blood again. He takes a dagger, stabs his own hand and starts to write while saying: “Torment, sweet friend, that base and aged man that durst dissuade me from thy Lucifer, with greatest torment that our hell affords.”³⁷ At this moment his soul is obviously lost. He got one of the last chances to redeem himself and he threw it away as it was of no importance. Through the whole play Faustus often shows his uncertainty about the existence of heaven and redemption but always comes back to “the road to hell”. Sometimes it even seems he is psychologically not completely healthy as he changes sides so quickly. Faustus has another wish from Mephostophilis. He wants him to bring Helen of Greece so she can become his lover.

After some time Faustus and the scholars meet and Faustus is worried, anxious and frightened. One of the scholars offers to go for a doctor to make him feel better but Faustus explains “A surfeit of deadly sin that hath damned both body and soul!”³⁸ The second scholar encourages him to seek God’s mercy because it is infinite. But Faustus continues

“But Faustus’ offense can ne’er be pardoned. The serpent that tempted Eve may be saved, but not Faustus! O gentlemen hear with patience and tremble not at my speeches. Though my heart pant and quiver to remember that I have been a student here

³⁵ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 92.

³⁶ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 92.

³⁷ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 92.

³⁸ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 95.

these thirty years, O, would I had never seen Wittenberg, never read book.—And what wonders I have done all Germany can witness, yea all the world, for which Faustus hath lost both Germany and the world, yea heaven itself—heaven the seat of God, the throne of the blessed, the kingdom of joy—and must remain in hell forever! Hell, O hell forever! Sweet friends, what shall become of Faustus being in hell forever?”³⁹

The second scholar still encourages Faustus to not give up on God’s mercy but Faustus explains them that he would pray for salvation he would ask for God’s mercy but it is too late. He tells them that he has blasphemed against God and abjured him. It is obvious that in this point of the story Faustus knows that his end is coming very soon and he cannot avoid it which is documented by him saying:

“God forbade it indeed, but Faustus hath done it. For the vain pleasure of four and twenty years hath Faustus lost eternal joy and felicity. I writ them a bill with mine own blood. The date is expired. This is the time. And he will fetch me.”⁴⁰

The scholars lament that he should have told them earlier so they all could pray for him but Faustus tells them that they should not waste time on him and leave before the devils come for him to save themselves. Faustus tries to make a last good deed in a hope that he may be redeemed after all.

When they ask him why did not he told them earlier he answers:

“Oft have I thought to have done so, but the devil threatened to tear me in pieces if I named God—to fetch me body and soul if I once gave ear to divinity; and now ’tis too late! Gentlemen, away, lest you perish with me.”⁴¹

The third scholar courageously offers to stay with Faustus because he has surly God protecting him but the first scholar persuades him to go to next room together leaving Faust there to pray for his soul and Faustus agrees with that idea. All the

³⁹ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 95-96.

⁴⁰ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 96.

⁴¹ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 96.

scholars say farewell to Faustus and leave. We witness the presence of the Good and Bad angel for the last time summarizing the situation around Faustus.

The last four pages describe the end of Doctor Faustus or more precisely his last hour from 11pm to 12pm. The devil comes to pick up his promised soul when the clock shows exactly midnight. He does not have time off and is very punctual. There is no delay, payment schedule or remission. Now Faustus feels he has not had enough time to pray and repent for his sins. He wishes that this last hour would last longer. He calls for mercy God as well as Lucifer. He wants to hide in the earth as well as among stars or as a steam among clouds. He believes that by dismantling of his body into atoms his soul could continue safely to heaven. This passage is quoted precisely and at length to provide the experience his true feelings and fears fully!

“O Faustus! Now hast thou but one bare hour to live and then thou must be damned perpetually. Stand still, you ever-moving spheres of Heaven that time may cease and midnight never come: Fair nature’s eye, rise, rise again and make perpetual day, or let this hour be but a year, a month, a week, a natural day--- That Faustus may repent and save his soul. O lente lente currite noctis equi! The stars move still, time runs, the clock will strike: The devil will come, and Faustus must be damned! O, I’ll leap up to my God! Who pulls me down? See, see where Christ’s blood streams in the firmament! One drop of blood will save me. O my Christ!—Rend not my heart for naming of my Christ! Yet will I call on Him! O spare me, Lucifer!—Where is it now? ’Tis gone: and see where God stretcheth out His arm and bends His ireful brows! Mountains and hills, come, come and fall on me and hide me from the heavy wrath of God! No? Then will I headlong run into the earth. Gape earth! O no, it will not harbor me. You stars that reigned at my nativity, whose influence hath allotted death and hell, now draw up Faustus like a foggy mist into the entrails of yon laboring cloud that when you vomit forth into the air, my limbs may issue from you smoky mouths—but let my soul mount and ascend to heaven!”⁴²

When the clock strikes a half past eleven the panic starts at full throttle. He knows he will not avoid hell so he negotiates at least about the length of his stay

⁴² MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 99.

in hell. He mentions that his soul will go through metamorphosis in hell which he knows after making his first visit to hell. He also curses Lucifer because it is him who has taken the joys of heaven from him. We can see that it is very hard for him to accept that he must leave this world knowing that he ends up in hell. Interesting fact is that he is still blaming Lucifer and Mephostophils more than himself which is typical for many people.

“O half the hour is passed! ’Twill all be passed anon! O God, if thou wilt not have mercy on my soul, yet for Christ’s sake, whose blood hath ransomed me, impose some end to my incessant pain! Let Faustus live in hell a thousand years, a hundred thousand, and at last be saved! No end is limited to damned souls! Why wert thou not a creature wanting soul? Or why is this immortal that thou hast? O, Pythagoras’ metempsychosis were that true this soul should fly from me and I be changed into some brutish beast. All beasts are happy, for wen they die their souls are soon dissolved in elements. But mine must live still to be plagued in hell! Cursed be the parents that engendered me! No Faustus, curse thyself, curse Lucifer that hath deprived thee of the joys of heaven.”⁴³

The clock strikes twelve and Faustus is calling for help for the last time. “It strikes, it strikes! Now body, turn to air, or Lucifer will bear thee quick to hell! O soul, be changed into small water-drops and fall into the ocean, ne’er be found.”⁴⁴

The last words of Doctor Faustus were: “My God, my God! Look not so fierce on me! Adders and serpents, let me breathe awhile! Ugly Hell, gape not! Come not Lucifer! I’ll burn my books!—O Mephostophilis!”⁴⁵ At the end, Lucifer did not come to pick up the soul personally and was satisfied just by sending his servant. That means that the soul of Doctor Faustus was not of the highest importance and probably was just one of many.

⁴³ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 100.

⁴⁴ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 100.

⁴⁵ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 100.

In the last scene the three scholars enter the study room finding Faustus. The second scholar comments on the finding “O, help us heaven, see, here are Faustus limbs all torn asunder by the hand of death!”⁴⁶ After that the second scholar suggests that Faustus was a person of great knowledge well-known in German schools and that is why he should get a proper burial and all the students should be dressed in black attending the funeral.

The whole play finishes with a chorus which summarizes the morality behind the play: “Cut is the branch that might have grown full straight and burned is Apollo’s laurel bough that sometime grew within this learned man.”⁴⁷ The chorus indicated that it is a great shame to lose life in such a way as well as encourages the audience to live a moral life.

2.3 Analysis

The whole play is written very movingly and the audience can easily identify with the main character. It is not easy to read because there are many expressions from late 16th century English but this play laid down the basics for all the other stories with the “pact with the devil” theme.

Christian heaven has its own hierarchy with the God as the highest in charge. Christopher Marlowe in *Doctor Faustus* used a similar kind of hierarchy for hell with the Lucifer as the highest person in charge. When Faustus asked favors from Mephostophilis this servant of the Lucifer then needed an approval from his lord in some cases. This hierarchy in hell means that unlike in the other works I have

⁴⁶ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 101.

⁴⁷ MARLOWE, Christopher, BARNET, Sylvan (ed.). *Doctor Faustus*. New York: Signet Classics, 1969, 101.

examined, there are more than one agents; more than one devil in this play. This is not evident for the other works under examination.

What should really be appreciated in this book is the fact that it contains the exact wording of, in this case, deed of gift so we know all of its conditions and rules. This is also different from the other stories.

On the other hand this is a classic bargain with the devil as the theme is often imagined. A man sells his soul for some advantages to the devil and in a defined time by the contract, the devil shows himself to pick up his reward. What is definitely not as common is that in this story Doctor Faustus sells his soul for knowledge which in a certain way seems a noble cause. Because Doctor Faustus is interested in knowledge, there really are no wishes of a materialistic character made by him, perhaps with the exception of having Helen of Greece.

Since the contract between both sides has been signed in this drama the personality of Doctor Faustus has been changing. At first he is at peak with his confidence. He does not think of a bargain at all because it is a long time from fulfilling it. As time goes he is getting scared as every ordinary man would. We may distinguish two stages of this phase. In a first stage he is not too afraid of having dialogues with his friends about what might happen when living life as he does. In the second stage he is scared a lot and convinced that the inevitable end is coming. His friends are trying to convince him in both stages that he needs to pray to God for forgiveness so he can purify himself of all the sins he has committed and go to heaven but Faustus does not believe that the purification is an option to get out of his infernal troubles.

Sometimes Faustus has an unbalanced personality. His attitudes and moods are changing fast. He blames all the other people except himself for his terrible destiny. The devil on the other hand is calm, serious and knows exactly what he wants and how to reach it. He appears strong and even though he and his servants sometimes entertain Faustus with some show, the audience really feels that there is no joking with this former angel and ruler of hell.

3. William Makepeace Thackeray – The Paris Sketch Book: The Painter’s Bargain

3.1 Basic features of the story

The short story called the “Painter’s Bargain” is a story set in Paris, France with a few demons and one challenger facing all three of them. The main demon is symbolized directly by the diabolic imp but there is also drinking of alcohol itself as well as a bad wife with toxic attitudes and opinions ruining the life of a happy man.

The narrator dominates and only sometimes is a direct speech between the characters developing the plot. Thackeray used simple English of common expressions with many comparisons which makes the “Painter’s Bargain” very readable. Thackeray belonged to authors of critical realism of the mid 19th century.

The main hero, Mr. Simon Gambouge, is the son of Solomon Gambouge. Both are unsuccessful painters. The son paints portraits of usually beautiful people for admiration but nobody wants serve as his model. When he turns twenty, he decides to move forward with his life and marry a woman. Because he knows owner of a butchery he marries his daughter called Griskinnisa who becomes a model for his paintings which make decent earnings and he also gets free steakst from his father-in-law. Nevertheless it is not enough and soon they have many unpaid bills which led to pawning things of their household. This changes Griskinnisa a lot. She starts drinking and her personality becomes corrupted. At this point the narrator mentions that “drinking is the devil – the father, that is to

say, of all vices. Griskinnisa's face and her mind grew ugly together."⁴⁸ Simon on the other hand was a happy and lively man but tormented by his wife. Her tongue was poisonous when they spoke and she yelled at him so loud that even the neighbors could hear that.

3.2 The Plot

The real drama begins one day with Simon Gambouge sitting and furbishing up a portrait of his wife. He feels sorry for himself and his self-pity is strong. He regrets wasting his talent as well as getting married to Griskinnisa.

“O miserable fate of genius! Was I, a man of such commanding talents, born for this? To be bullied by a fiend of wife; to have my masterpieces neglected by the world, or sold only for a few pieces. Cursed be the love which has misled me; cursed, be the art which is unworthy of me! Let me dig or steal, let me sell myself as a soldier, or sell myself to the devil, I should not be more wretched than I am now!”⁴⁹

Immediately we can here the Imp's voice says “Quite the contrary”⁵⁰

Simon is confused. He does not know from where the voice is coming as well as who it is. The voice tells Simon to squeeze his bladder of crimson lake which he is holding in his hand. He does it and the Imp jumps out laughing. The Imp is described as a “strange little animal”.⁵¹ This is a first time the devil is compared

⁴⁸ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html

⁴⁹ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html

⁵⁰ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html

⁵¹ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html

with the animal instead of a human being even though he later displays good manners, a typical characteristic for people.

After the Imp appears, the painter is very surprised and informs us that he has never believed in the existence of hell until now. The Imp says “You are a man of merit, and want money; you will starve on your merit; you can only get money from me. Come my friend, how much is it?”⁵² The little devil also explains what he wants in return for his money. He uses a very obsequious style of the businessman of the modern age when it comes to explaining what the soul is as well as undervaluing its worth. “Nothing but the signature of a bond, which is mere ceremony, and the transfer of an article which, in itself, is a supposition – a valueless, windy, uncertain property of yours”.⁵³

The Imp wants to finish his negotiation successfully so he is trying to play down the meaning and purpose of the whole contract. “It is useless and tedious to describe law documents: lawyers only love to read them”⁵⁴ A good comparison in this part of the story about who behaves like devils is made when the Imp calls lawyers apprentices who have emulated the skill of the devil, the skill of the master.

Gambouge reads over the paper quickly and signs the contract. He was supposed to have all his wishes fulfilled during the next seven years and at the end of his specified time he was supposed to become the property of hell. If during those seven years any of his wishes are not fulfilled the contract would become invalid and Gambouge would not have to necessarily end up in hell. In that case, the measure would be whether he lived a righteous life or not.

The Imp is satisfied and disappears but before that he specifies the way the wishes will be realized. “You will never see me again! – never, at least, unless

⁵² THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁵³ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁵⁴ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

you want me; for everything you ask will be performed in the most quiet and every-day manner.”⁵⁵ According to the Imp, it is the best way to avoid scandals.

Simon is wondering whether this experience was real or a dream or if he is sober enough and decides to test his new options. Because he is hungry, he wishes to have capon and a bottle of white wine and there is immediately a waiter calling Simon’s name behind the door with the delivery. Simon instructs the boy to come back later to pick up the plates and glasses and starts to feast on the capon. While he is eating he realizes that he and Mrs. Gambouge would live for one month if they could pawn the silver plate. “I wish the plate were mine.”⁵⁶ Simon realized that if they caught him stealing it would not be as bad as starvation putting the dish and spoons into his flap.

After that Simon goes to a pawnbroker, or more precisely, to the establishment called the Mont de Piété where he tries to sell the plate passing it off as a family inheritance. The pawnbroker smiles over this offer telling Simon he cannot give him any money for this and explaining that there is name of the coffee-house on every single item. The author comments the whole situation in a quite funny but truthful way!

“The effects of conscience are dreadful indeed. Oh! how fearful is retribution, how deep is despair, how bitter is remorse for crime — WHEN CRIME IS FOUND OUT! — otherwise, conscience takes matters much more easily.”⁵⁷

The pawnbroker than suggests a new plan. They can melt them and split the profit from the silver in halves. This sounds good to Simon so he agrees with the procedure.

He leaves the pawnbroker and as he walks by the street he stops to count what he has gained today. It is not much. He looks around and sees a gambling house

⁵⁵ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁵⁶ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁵⁷ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

making his next wish “I wish I had half the money that is now on the table, up stairs.”⁵⁸ He goes in and bets all his money on double at roulette. If you bet as him you have the lowest possibility to win with the highest profit you can earn. Of course the ball stopped on double zero and Mr. Gambouge obtained one hundred and thirty-five gold napoleons (i.e. the currency of that age in France) which was a fortune. Having such money for the first time in his life he says: “Oh, Diabolus! now it is that I begin to believe in thee.”⁵⁹ Not having enough Simon bets on the zero again. The narrator comments the spin with words “The Devil was certainly in the ball”⁶⁰ because Simon won again. This time he won approximately six thousand pounds.

With the new gained money his personality and attitudes change “since he had grown rich, grew likewise abundantly moral. He was a most exemplary father. He fed the poor, and was loved by them”.⁶¹ He becomes a caring man repenting for stealing the restaurateur’s plate. Now he has a fortune so this action which he had done seems stupid and wrong to him. First he goes to pawnbroker to get the plate back and when he has it he goes to give it back together with money for a bill to the restaurant. The only negative aspect of his personality was that he hated Mrs. Gambouge for her drinking and poisonous attitudes and opinions. The narrator again uses a nice comparison here describing the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Gambouge “in fact, she led him such a life as Xantippe led Socrates”.⁶²

In the six years since signing the contract, Simon became very pious and moral. He visited church on a regular basis and even had a reverend as his own consultant whom he told everything about the diabolical agreement. Simon

⁵⁸ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁵⁹ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁶⁰ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁶¹ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁶² THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

realized that the end was coming and became even more pious. He consulted all the doctors of the Sorbonne and all the lawyers of the Palais without success. When they could not help him, he had unreal demands on the devil but the Imp has fulfilled all of them.

One day his clerical friend came up with a plan. Simon was supposed to send the Pope a hundred thousand crowns for building a new Jesuit college in Rome and the Pope was supposed to give him absolution in return. The whole procedure happened as it had been planned but when Simon meets with the Imp, the devil says:

“What nonsense is this! do you suppose I care about THAT?” and continues by saying: “the Pope’s paper may pass current HERE, it is not worth twopence in our country. What do I care about the Pope’s absolution? You might just as well be absolved by your under butler“⁶³

After this, the Imp leaves giggling over his triumph.

In the end, Simon calls his family and friends together to the feast. When the dinner was over he called upon his diabolic friend.

“A very quiet, gentlemanly man, neatly dressed in black, made his appearance, to the surprise of all present, and bowed all round to the company. “I will not show my CREDENTIALS,” he said, blushing, and pointing to his hoofs, which were cleverly hidden by his pumps and shoe-buckles”.⁶⁴

We can again witness good education and fine manners of the Imp.

Simon tricks the devil to prevent losing his soul. At first he asks the Imp whether he is acquainted with the obligation to fulfill all his wishes and the devil agrees. After that he says

⁶³ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁶⁴ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

“Take, then, Griskinissa Gambouge, live alone with her for half a year, never leave her from morning till night, obey all her caprices, follow all her whims, and listen to all the abuse which falls from her infernal tongue. Do this, and I ask no more of you; I will deliver myself up at the appointed time.”⁶⁵

The Imp is cornered. He would do everything else, fulfill every other wish but this one. He becomes very angry but has no other option than to surrender by spreading his wings and flying away.

After all this, Simon is woken up by shrill and familiar voice of his wife, finding out that he has slept for two hours and none of that really happened. The last words he says are: “I wish, that dreams were true.”⁶⁶ The whole story ends with narrator telling us that Mr. and Mrs. Gambouge continued their living as servants in a wealthy family.

3.3 Analysis

The purpose for signing a bargain with the devil in this short story by Thackeray is one of the classical reasons and that is greed for money. A man of poor origin, Simon Gambouge is eager to make the diabolical bargain. We can also see a reflection of the legacy of the protestant Jan Hus. For example his teaching that you cannot buy an absolution is evident here when Simon tries to buy absolution from Pope by giving him money for building a Jesuit Church and this effort has absolutely no meaning or value for the devil, who is not Catholic but Protestant.

⁶⁵ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

⁶⁶ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

The most unique matter in this story is the comparison of the devil with lawyers. For example, when the diabolical imp says about lawyers these words: “they have as good in Chitty as any that are to be found in the Devil’s own; so nobly have the apprentices emulated the skill of the master.”⁶⁷ Lawyers are very good in creating and making bargains. Like the devil, they always try to create the best bargain for the side they represent, though they lack the highest skills of Lucifer.

Similar to *Faustus Kelly* by Myles na gCopaleen, the devil is cheated from winning the bargain, and both main characters who made the pact with the devil, survived. Mr. Gambouge uses his wife to make the imp violate the bargain as well as in *Faustus Kelly* where the devil does not want to take Mr. Kelly with him to hell because politicians are so much worse than hell.

Simon sees the imp only on the occasion of calling him. Otherwise, all the wishes are fulfilled by somebody else through some kind of supernatural power. Finally except that he has very good behavior education and manners, the devil is a very sly businessman when he is in the process of making a bargain with Simon.

⁶⁷ THACKERAY, William Makepeace, *The Paris sketch book: The Painter's bargain*, https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/t/thackeray/william_makepeace/paris/chapter5.html.

4. The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

4.1 Basic features of the story

This novel concerns everlasting beauty. All three main characters Dorian, Basil and Lord Henry are convinced that it is a most significant aspect of life. The atmosphere of this famous novel could be compared with the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen because people are kind to each other while there is a straight discussion among them but as soon as somebody leaves, they then start to defame that person. This can be seen in many novels from England of the 19th century.

4.2 The Plot

The novel begins with Basil Hallward and Lord Henry Wotton talking in the painter's studio while Basil is painting a picture of some young man in whom Lord Henry is interested in, particularly in his identity. They are talking and the master mentions Dorian Gray as the name of his model. Lord Henry does not understand Basil's reasons when Basil reveals that he has absolutely no intentions in presenting this painting publicly nor sharing the person with the audience because he is special and precious to him. The proof of this can be seen in these lines; "Every day. I couldn't be happy if I didn't see him every day. He is all my art to me now"⁶⁸ which provokes Lord Henry's interest even more and more than ever he is sure that he has to meet that young man personally.

Lord Henry is lucky because he does not have to wait for long. All of a sudden Dorian appears in the studio interested in checking on the progress of his own

⁶⁸ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 16.

picture. Knowing Lord Henry well, Basil cautions Dorian against his immoral influence but Dorian remains largely apathetic. Basil is just about to finish his painting when Lord Henry lectures Dorian about the evanescence of beauty as they are having discussion outside so the master would have quiet and peaceful conditions for the closing part of his painting. They are talking about the danger of getting sunburned because the fashion of that age was to be as white as a sheet when Lord Henry tells Dorian: “you have the most marvelous youth, and youth is the only thing worth having.”⁶⁹

Basil has finished his masterpiece presenting it to Dorian and he beholds what Lord Henry was trying to explain him which makes him to whisper a wish.

“How sad it is! I shall grow old and horrible and dreadful. But this picture will remain always young. 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! Yes, there is nothing in the whole world I would not give! I would give my soul for that!”⁷⁰

We can see that Dorian becomes completely frightened by the thought that he can grow and be old one day losing his beauty which would be, in his eyes, the worst that can ever happen to him. Basil is confused and that is why he asks Dorian whether he likes the picture. “Appreciate it? I am in love with it, Basil. It is part of myself. I feel that”.⁷¹

Dorian is too precious to Basil and that is why Basil asks a favor from Lord Henry, who is as well called Harry, that he would not keep in touch with Dorian but inspite of that request they spend time together a lot anyway.

One day Dorian comes to visit Lord Henry but he is not at home so he waits on him at his house. He wants to inform him that he has fallen in love with Sibyl Vane who is only seventeen years old after seeing her acting skills in theatre. She played Juliet in that famous play by William Shakespeare. This happens when

⁶⁹ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 29.

⁷⁰ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 34.

⁷¹ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 36.

Harry comes back home. Sibyl is completely enraptured by her new handsome lover and gives Dorian a nickname “Prince charming”.⁷²

Some time goes by and they get engaged to each other. Sybil is very happy about it and wants to share her feelings with her family and that is why she pays them a visit or more precisely to her mother and James who is her brother. Right after she tells him the happy news, he feels that she needs to be protected especially because she is young and having a serious grimace on his face he says: “for as sure as there is a God in heaven if he ever does you any wrong I shall kill him”.⁷³

In the next passage of the novel Lord Henry meets with Basil. After informing Basil that Dorian got engaged, he tells him that they are both supposed to join Dorian in watching a play in a theatre where they shall see Sybil’s perfect acting performance. Basil is shocked by the engagement. It remains unclear he is also manipulative as Harry or has some stronger feelings, beyond friendship for him. We know that Oscar Wilde was a man with a weak spot for people of the same gender when searching for the love partner so this could also be taken as a projection of his view of the world which he wanted to share with the audience.

The expectations are very high when they arrive at the theatre but when Sybil comes on stage it is fiasco. She acts terribly like she has never played before. There is a noticeable disappointment in all three of them. She is so bad that none of them has to even comment on that matter. When the play ends, Dorian meets Sybil backstage to speak with her. He hears her explanation of why she is not able to act anymore when she says:

“Dorian, Dorian before I knew you, acting was the one reality of my life. It was only in the theatre that I lived. It was Rosalind one night and Portia the other. You came—oh, my beautiful love!—and you freed my soul from the prison. You taught me what reality really is.”⁷⁴

⁷² WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 65.

⁷³ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 82.

⁷⁴ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 100-101.

Yet Dorian does not feel love towards her anymore. He would not be able to live with such a miserable actress and he ruthlessly breaks up with her. We can see that Dorian might have some kind of feelings towards Sybil but the feeling of love was not included among them as he tells her:

“...you have killed my love. 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. I will never see you again.”⁷⁵

Then he turns and walks home. When he gets to his destination he looks at the picture of himself from Basil and gets very surprised. The painting has changed “there was a touch of cruelty in the mouth”.⁷⁶ We can mark this moment as a moment in which Dorian found out that he has promised his soul for the everlasting beauty and youth. He also realizes that the painting is a projection of his soul. It grows externally hideous instead of him. He would like to change the way he lives his life by being a good kind person. Then he finds out that his former girlfriend has committed suicide. He blames himself that his bad behavior towards her might actually have killed her. When he meets with Lord Henry, he tells him that it is not his fault that she has taken her life. He was full of remorse but now he is alright again.

He obsessively looks at the painting almost every day. “Eternal youth, infinite passions, pleasures subtle and secret, wild joys and wilder sins—he was to have all these things.”⁷⁷

Basil meets Dorian the next day finding him perfectly fine as if nothing had happened to Sybil. He tells Basil that she was just a terrible actress and then makes comment which describes how he feels now perfectly “what is past is past.”⁷⁸ He also tells Basil to not speak of her in the future anymore. Dorian’s character became rotten and Basil believed that it was due to the bad influence of

⁷⁵ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 102.

⁷⁶ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 105.

⁷⁷ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 122-123.

⁷⁸ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 126.

Lord Henry. Of course, it was not the only reason but Harry was playing with Dorian a lot. It was similar to the situation where the puppet master controls his puppet by pulling certain strings. It is mostly due to the fact that Lord Henry has a calm and reasonable personality and is looking at many issues in a very similar way like Dorian. Dorian proves that he is influenced by Lord Henry by this line: “I owe a great deal to Harry, Basil. More than I owe to you. You only taught me to be vain”.⁷⁹ After that Basil asks Dorian whether it would be possible to show the painting publicly which makes Dorian very uneasy. Dorian immediately forbids him from doing that.

Dorian becomes very nervous after this conversation having worries that something unexpected might happen to it. He feels that it is necessary to relocate and conceal the painting where the obscure old schoolroom is located and requesting the one and only key which can open the door.

Lord Henry sends a book and a letter with the title “Inquest on an actress”⁸⁰ to Dorian. It is a yellow book written by a Parisian in 19th century. The book has only one hero and Dorian marks this book as the most peculiar that he has ever had a chance to lay eyes on. He is captivated by it reading it constantly. The only main hero in this particular book is actually very similar to Dorian. They share similar values and character attributes which can be seen in this line: “The whole book seemed to him to contain the story of his own life, written before he had lived it.”⁸¹

As years passed by “he grew more and more enamoured of his own beauty, more and more interested in the corruption his own soul”.⁸²(p.148) He wants to live his life at its full potential so he goes to dirty places in the city such as the opium den where he spends quite a lot of time. He also often swaps his pastimes, for example, he is interested in jewels, travelling, music etc. The only problem is

⁷⁹ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 126.

⁸⁰ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 144.

⁸¹ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 147.

⁸² WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 148.

that he cannot spend much time away of his painting because “He hated to be separated from the picture that was such a part of his life.”⁸³

When Dorian becomes 38 years old there is a party at his honor which is hosted by the house of Lord Henry. Unfortunately as he is returning home he is not able to evade Basil who is on his way even though he would really like to. They start to talk and Basil informs Dorian about his departure for Paris where he will spend next 6 months. When they both get to Dorian’s home Basil accuses Dorian of living an immoral life attending such horrible places. After that Basil wants to see the picture “I wonder do I know you? Before I could answer that I should have to see your soul.”⁸⁴ Dorian agrees to show him the painting taking him there especially because he has never shown it to anybody. When Basil catches a sight of the ugly face he becomes disgusted. “Christ! What a thing I must have worshipped! It has the eyes of a devil.”⁸⁵ Dorian becomes furious, and he stabs Basil unnecessarily several times with a knife because the first hit already cutting the great vein on the neck. Basil is instantly dies on the spot without any feeling or emotions Dorian, only knows he needs to clear this corps away.

Another life which gets destroyed by Dorian with an easy conscience is the one of the chemist who is known as Mr. Alan Campbell. Dorian calls him, crying for help knowing that Campbell should be able to dissolve the body in his acids. Over the fact that they dislike one another, Campbell finally helps him but later we find out that Campbell was not able to deal with what he has done and takes his own life.

Dorian goes ones again to the opium den on the very same day in which the Basil’s corpse was dissolved. He is thinking about what Harry has said earlier. “To cure the soul by means of the senses, and the senses by means of the soul.”⁸⁶ He evidently does not want to face the consequences of his own actions. They

⁸³ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 162.

⁸⁴ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 175.

⁸⁵ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 180.

⁸⁶ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 212.

have a name “the devil’s bargain”.⁸⁷ for him in this district of the city. Unfortunately during his visitation he meets James Vane dressed as a sailor intending to murder him using his revolver. At the end James leaves him alone because luckily for Dorian he was able to persuade James that it cannot be him. Eighteen years has passed since the death of Sybil Vane so he would have to look much older. When Dorian leaves, James gets the information that he really was “Prince charming” from a woman on the street.

Later Dorian spots James Vane as he is watching him through the window and collapses. It seems that he is following Dorian who becomes very frightened. To get back on top he participates in a shooting-party which is organized by a man whose name is Geoffrey Clouston. While they are waiting for the prey Geoffrey shoots at something not knowing what it is. Turns out that he has shot a person which he comments with words: “What an ass the man was to get in front of the guns.”⁸⁸ In this part of the book Dorian often gets depressed and bored and it is obvious now that nobody should live the everlasting life of beauty. There is just not enough activities to fill the space even though you are rich and you can afford to do almost everything you like.

Dorian is asked to make the identification of the corpse and is very eager to do that after finding out that the man was dressed as a sailor. Luckily for Dorian, the dead man is James Vane. “As he rode home, his eyes were full of tears, for he knew he was safe.”⁸⁹

After some time Dorian speaks with Lord Henry informing him that he will be living a moral life from now on. As we could have seen thorough the novel Dorian tends to idealize things so such a change might be even impracticable for him. Dorian knows that his soul has been corrupted and the painting reflects it and that is why he comes up with a theory after meeting a farm girl whom he

⁸⁷ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 217.

⁸⁸ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 231.

⁸⁹ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 239.

exceptionally does not seduce. He does not understand that if you want something in return for your “kind” actions you are not doing a good deed.

Dorian also mentions Basil while they are talking to each other “Harry, did it ever occur to you that Basil was murdered?”⁹⁰ as well as that he confesses his crime to Lord Henry in this line: “What would you say, Harry, if I told you that I had murdered Basil?”⁹¹ Lord Henry does not pay attention to this information because according to him Dorian would not be able to do such a thing. Harry is just the kind of person who thinks that he knows-it-all. He often lectures Dorian and wants to share his experiences with a wider audience but he very often tends to generalize matters. The whole conversation ends with Harry asking Dorian to come to his party the very next day.

There were many questions from Harry that Dorian answered and one particularly interesting for our matter: “By the way, Dorian, what does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”⁹² Harry is not trying to provoke him it is a regular question in his eyes just out of interest. Dorian is already very suspicious but he confirms the existence of a soul by saying: “The soul is a terrible reality. It can be bought, and sold, and bartered away. It can be poisoned, or made perfect. There is a soul in each one of us. I know it.”⁹³

Fatigue is Dorian’s main feeling. The everlasting life seems unlivable for a regular person. People around him are growing older and dying so on the way home he actually thinks about the dead, for example, about Alan and Sybil. He returns home rushing to see if there is any sign of change in the painting. “Yes, he would be good, and the hideous thing that he had hidden away would no longer be a terror to him.”⁹⁴ We are witnessing another classic characteristic of behavior of the person who made a bargain with the devil. He was enjoying all the pleasures that have been given to him by some supernatural powers for years and yet he

⁹⁰ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 243.

⁹¹ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 244.

⁹² WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 246.

⁹³ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 246.

⁹⁴ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 253.

believes he can reach absolution by feeling such brief remorse action. When his eyes lay on the portrait he begins to cry.

“He would see no change, save that in the eyes there was a look of cunning, and in the mouth the curved wrinkle of the hypocrite. The thing was still loathsome—more loathsome, if possible, than before.”⁹⁵

Dorian is obsessed by the portrait of himself and checking on it every day makes him very angry because he must acknowledge that his insides are accordingly rotten and ugly. He is a sinner walking a path of the damned. He also often thinks about the dead painter or other people like Sybil or Alan because he is chased by the twinges of conscience.

The only proof that he has killed the painter is the painting itself and that is why he needs to get rid of it by destroying it believing that it might make him a freeman again. He seizes the knife which killed Basil and stabs the portrayal of himself on the canvas. The servants come in the morning just to see Dorian dead on the ground with the knife in his heart. “He was withered, wrinkled, and loathsome of visage.”⁹⁶

4.3 Analysis

“The co-partners” in making of this pact are Dorian and the painting itself. The devil endowed the portrait with his powers. Some kind of hell’s hierarchy into this novel may be adapted by the painting which has a complete power over Dorian. Harry would be one of his servants because of his strong influential attitude over Dorian. Because of him Dorian became such a hideous and paranoid person. Love and hatred are two diametrically different feelings. Yet those are the feelings that

⁹⁵ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 253-254.

⁹⁶ WILDE, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. London: Penguin books, 1994, 256.

characterize the relationship between Dorian and the portrait. Since he has whispered the wish they have been somehow connected to one another. He checks on it everyday, hoping for some sign of salvation. This is different from the other works under study in this thesis. Salvation is connected with the ascension and here the main hero has the option of living the everlasting life but it is important to mention that it is only natural that people try to repent for their sins when they are losing all hope.

Another indication that the bargain was made by those two sides is that Dorian commits suicide by stabbing the painting. Finally we have to mark this bargain as the most profitable from the devil's point of view because of the impracticability of everlasting life of youth and beauty for a regular person. We can see that the devil does not even need to define the time of the length of his services because the soul becomes so miserable and soon comes to hell by natural processes anyway.

According to Craft in "The enchantment of the Double in The Picture of Dorian Gray" Wilde's novel can be compared with the works of Ovid and Jacques Lacan. Craft claims that it is the picture and not the character which is dominant in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Craft declares that the person who was model and inspiration for creation of the main character in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was an Englishman called Willie Hughes. It is said that Wilde often watched the man in a theatre and that he was a very handsome man.⁹⁷

Craft also points out the paradox of the mirror effect. He paraphrases Ovid to explain the relationship between Dorian Gray and his picture when he says that the lover's attachment is not at all to himself but more likely to the image that discloses the self to itself as the alienated object for its own desire. He calls this the behavior of Narcissus in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Evidence for this claim is made by the fact that Dorian Gray always comes back to check on his portrait when he

⁹⁷ CRAFT, Christopher. Come see about me: Enchantment of the Double in The Picture of Dorian Gray. *Representations* 91. 2005.

commits a new sin, or as Craft puts it, “his being-over-there coming back to himself here.”⁹⁸

Craft believes that when Dorian Gray stood in front of the painting for the first time, he also recognized himself for the first time. Before this, he was supposed to be just a blank canvas. Craft says that Wilde directly duplicated the mirror function and that the experience of reflection forms his inner conflict which is an inherent part in all visual representations.⁹⁹

⁹⁸ CRAFT, Christopher. Come see about me: Enchantment of the Double in The Picture of Dorian Gray. *Representations* 91. 2005.

⁹⁹ CRAFT, Christopher. Come see about me: Enchantment of the Double in The Picture of Dorian Gray. *Representations* 91. 2005.



100

¹⁰⁰ <http://salmanlatif.wordpress.com/2011/08/04/the-picture-of-dorian-gray/>

5. Faustus Kelly by Myles na gCopaleen

5.1 Basic features of the story

Faustus Kelly was for the first time presented at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. It contains only three acts respectively three scenes. There are many idioms and collocations concerning Irish dialect of 20th century so it is quite hard for a regular reader to understand everything.

5.2 The plot

This short story begins in the dark with the discussion between Mr. Kelly and the Devil about the terms of their diabolic deal. The only visible parts of their bodies are their faces. The Devil's face is situated above Mr. Kelly's one in this scene. It appears that he stands right behind him. This particular moment makes a psychological impression that the Devil is bigger, stronger and definitely a person who gets more out of the contract which is just about to be signed by Mr. Kelly. The lights are slowly turned on because the first act can start in full swing.

A watcher of this play is moved to the Council chamber to see Cullen and Reilly having a conversation about various topics such as drunk drivers or Russian life. They wait for the other members of the council because time and date of their next meeting has been set for now. Two new characters are added to the play when Shawn joins his colleagues from the council on stage and shortly after him the Town Clerk introduces himself as well. As all four of them chat they discuss the election of the chairman for a new T.D. This abbreviation stands for Taechta Dála and that is a title for a member of the Lower House of the Irish parliament.

They are not 100 % sure certain that Mr. Kelly will candidate but they believe he is going for it and they are ready to give him their full support. Only Reilly is against this plan. A beholder does not know reasons for Reilly's attitude towards Mr. Kelly but it is certain that there are some problems from the past. Generally Reilly has a quarrelsome personality and is hard to get along with. A kind of all-knowing man who can solve any problem but to be fair to him he is the only incorruptible person in the Council who wants to work for the ordinary people. Later we find out at least a bit why Mr. Kelly is so unsympathetic to Mr. Reilly. One of the main reasons is that Mr. Kelly visits the house of Mrs. Crockett very often. He leaves her in late hours and that is really unimaginable in Catholic Ireland for people who are not married to each other.

Mr. Kelly normally never comes late but today it is different, he is the last one who is supposed to come. Suddenly he shows up smiling and with some kind of stranger side by side to disturb the conversation. As they talk about the usual issues that need to be taken care of they get to the selection of a new rate collector. Reilly is furious about this because it was not contained in their program and nobody had time to think about that. Although there is a big argument about that the stranger is finally appointed as the new rate collector in the region. We can see that one of the terms from the contract has been fulfilled.

There is nothing more to discuss and everybody leaves the Council chamber except Mr. Kelly and the stranger. The first act ends by revealing another condition of the contract when the stranger goes to Mr. Kelly and tells him that only he will be appointed as a new T.D.

The second act takes place six weeks after the council members have met for the last time. The setting is the house of Mrs. Crockett or more precisely to her living-room where the election takes place. We can see the devil only at the moment he talks with Hannah, trying to attract her by awarding her with a necklace and asking her to deliver a letter to Mr. Kelly. Of course, that right from the beginning we have suspected that the stranger would also be the devil because of his

mysteriousness but this proves right; by using his powers while giving Hannah the necklace, he points his finger at the divan and she finds it under the cushion.

Mr. Kelly is trying to be appointed as a T.D. talking to people about jobbery and jockeying promising to always defend the rights of Irish people but those are all lies but by saying them again and again Mr. Kelly convinces himself that they are really truthful. The truth is that he will never do anything to make life better for anyone but himself. Otherwise we can see Shawn as he comes defending Mrs. Crockett's honor. He and Mr. Kelly have an argument and that is why Shawn becomes his only rival in the elections.

The third act begins again in Mrs. Crockett's house. Four weeks have passed since the vote. In this passage, the Stranger has done everything as promised because Mr. Kelly won in the election, becoming the new T.D. The only sad thing that happens to him is the break up with Mrs. Crockett who is very disappointed in him for making lots of promises that he never had intended to keep. Instead of helping people he, for example, owns a liquor store situated over the street of Mrs. Crockett's house, making plenty of money out of it.

In this passage the devil reveals himself again during the congratulatory soirée where is also Cullen, Shawn, Town Clerk and of course Mr. Kelly who, as soon as he lays eyes on the devil, becomes nervous and terrified about fulfilling of his part of the bargain, proclaiming that he has not taken the vows yet. The devil is calm about this matter, telling him that it is not the time yet. Reilly comes with the letter containing the information that the appointing of the last rate collector was a set-up. The stranger does not understand the situation so Reilly gives us an explanation. "You were wheeled in on the ratepayers' backs by a bare-faced twist and by your own pack of dirty lies on the query form. You will not be sanctioned."¹⁰¹

¹⁰¹ O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, 188.

The devil is confused by the politics and request whether he could get some other job but the Town Clerk says:

“Another job? Are you crazy, man?” and adds “It will be all over the town be tomorrow morning. Shure you might as well be dead, man. The stranger begins to worry. All he wants is another job. Town Clerk continues you can be up for murder and welcome. You can take a hatchet and cut your wife into two pieces. People will say you are an odd class of a man. But this business of not being sanctioned oh, begob that is a different pair of sleeves. Wait and see, boy. As long as you live you will rue the day.”¹⁰²

The devil is in the corner now because he needs to keep at least some job. Mr. Kelly on the other hand knows this very well. The devil is getting more worried while the Town Clerk makes next comment on the situation: “I would rather have the leprosy or as Reilly explains him that there is no bed for him tonight, no cigarettes, no beer even no answer to any of his questions no matter where he puts them in this town.”¹⁰³

The devil feels really unwanted and requests a shelter in Mr. Kelly’s house but he answers that the clergy would not let it happen. Mr. Kelly provokes him even more by telling him that no person would talk to him if he decides to stay put. “But I have to talk to people. That is my job. I have to talk to them, to persuade them, to make them do what I want. I mean, I like talking to people”¹⁰⁴ The devil grabs his coat and goes away. For the time being Mr. Kelly gives one of his favorite speeches about the many things he will do for people after he takes the oath as the T.D.

At the end the stranger appears for the last time wearing a ceremonial black robe with a short but fitting speech:

¹⁰² O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, 188-189.

¹⁰³ O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, 191.

¹⁰⁴ O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, 193.

“Not for any favour in heaven or earth or hell would I take that Kelly and the others with me to where I live, to be in their company for ever and ever and ever. Here is the contract, his signed bond. I want nothing more of Irish public life.”¹⁰⁵

The devil angrily rips the bargain into the pieces and the curtain goes down, showing that Irish politicians are even too awful for the devil.

5.3 Analysis

“Faustus Kelly” is a gripping play where the problem of identifying the devil appears among other characters. The author offers a hint by calling one of the main characters “the stranger” until he uses his power to give Hannah the necklace. All members of the council seem to be possible suitably bad politicians to represent the devil in this play, especially because they are all rotten and corrupt inside, caring only for themselves. In the devil’s final speech, all of them are even worse than him and that is why all of the Irish politicians are devils from a certain perspective.

This short drama of a pact with the devil is different from the other works I have analyzed. We have to point out here Mr. Kelly’s understanding of his part of the contract. Mr. Kelly actually acts as a real sly politician when we see him signing the bargain voluntarily which leads to great success at a personal level. After that he makes excuses and petty delays to escape the contract which may remind the audience of some of the politicians nowadays. In addition to this the devil is not so strong and not as scary as in the other works. He gives up on the politician’s soul too easily. The only moment he reminds us the devils from the other works is right at the end when he is dressed in a black ceremonial robe. In the other works the person making a bargain with a devil has to find some way to get out of the

¹⁰⁵ O'BRIEN, Flann. *Stories and plays: Faustus Kelly*. New York: Viking Press, 1976, 196-197.

deal if he is about to escape in front of mighty devil. However, in this drama the politicians are so unbearable that even the devil would not take them with him to spend eternity next to such awful people. This is the only work in which the devil is more frightened of the people than they are of him.

6. The Miraculous revenge by George Bernard Shaw

6.1 Description of Zeno's character

The narrator Zeno Legge is also the the main character too. A tenacious man of many passions and desires with a very intrusive personality, it does not take much to irritate him, especially because he overrates himself regularly. He often takes action in the situations without giving any thought whatsoever and this works badly for him in numerous occasions.

He has a disdain for people who does not understand or appreciate him especially in the field of his intelligence or manners. The cardinal chose this particular petulant man for the quest of investigation of the veracity of a miracle which occurred in a small country town where Zeno knows nobody and nobody knows that he is related to the Cardinal.

With his very intrusive personality, he visits the Archbishop at his home in very late hours.

“Who are you?” asks the cardinal, “I am Zeno Legge” replies Zeno. “What do you want at this late hour? Go to your hotel. I will see you in the morning. Good night” says cardinal. “I felt that if I let this rebuff pass, I should not feel kindly towards my uncle in the morning.”¹⁰⁶

A perfect demonstration of him not thinking before taking charge comes when as narrator Zeno informs us: “I therefore plied the knocker with my right hand and

¹⁰⁶ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

kept the bell ringing with my left until I heard the door chain rattle within.”¹⁰⁷ He refuses to be left outside and inconvenienced. He wants the Cardinal to be inconvenienced instead.

Another case of his very high self-esteem and his egoistic attitude towards life and people can be noticed while he is playing the piano in his hotel late at night when one of the guests comes to him complaining. “Sir. May I ask whether you are mad, that you disturb people at this hour with such unearthly noise?” asks one of the guests dressed in pyjamas. “Is it possible you dislike it?” answers Zeno.¹⁰⁸ It is important to mention that this incident happened just before the visit of the Cardinal.

It is safe to say that Zeno has no respect towards any people around him. He is indifferent to their needs and cares and acts according but there is a need for specification in this matter. His very bad self-reflection of his own acting gets him to all sorts of unpleasant situations and troubles with other people. This is well documented in the beginning of this tale when he tells us a bit about his uncle and his family “He is like most of my family, deficient in feeling, and consequently cold to me personally”¹⁰⁹ This statement proves that Zeno is able to look at things just from his own perspective and is therefore not able to detect any defects of his own personality. It also tells us that the Cardinal was an emotionless man even though he is a holy person.

An interesting fact is that Zeno is the one and only person in the town where his quest takes place. There he expresses feeling sympathy to the deceased Brimstone Billy which is demonstrated when the narrator says, “I looked down at the grave

¹⁰⁷ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

¹⁰⁸ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

¹⁰⁹ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

with a pang of compassion for the unfortunate Wolfe Tone Fitzgerald, with whom the blessed would not rest.”¹¹⁰

6.2 The Plot

“The Miraculous Revenge” centers around the deceased Wolfe Tone Fitzgerald who was also called Brimstone Billy. A sinner and drunk, he lived in the small town called Four Mile Water and spoke badly about the dead people and was kind of a strong person insisting on his own values all his life. The people of Four Mile Water felt aversion towards Mr. Fitzgerald, especially because of his noncompliance with God’s commandments and recommendations. When Mr. Fitzgerald died, he was buried in the town’s cemetery as every regular person of this small town. However, the upright dead people would not rest in peace next to a sinner such was Brimstone Billy.¹¹¹

The miracle which Zeno is supposed to investigate occurs in this small town the day after the funeral of Mr. Fitzgerald when all the graves except the one of Brimstone Billy moved from one bank of the river to the other side. His unholy style of life together with his bad reputation preceded him in such a way that not even dead people would not be able to rest in peace lying next to him. It is obvious that the graves were driven to move just by themselves by some kind of supernatural power which actually brings some odd mysteriousness into this tale.

While Zeno is inquiring about his case in the town, he discovers that all the people he had a chance to talk to, believe in truthfulness of the moving graves as a miracle and inform the Cardinal by letter that says that this miracle was real. During his stay in Four Mile Water Zeno often has a dispute with Kate Hickey about various matters.

¹¹⁰ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

¹¹¹ SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

Zeno falls in love with Kate and that is why he feels a need for often and intensive clarification of his manners and behavior to her. She is only seventeen years old and Zeno wants to persuade her that he is better than a local country man whom he thinks she loves is a regular person who is not crazy as many local people claim. In fact he does not want to persuade only her but almost all the people around him about his qualities such as that he is the one who can be trusted, even though he speaks like an Englishman in Ireland.

One day while visiting the Hickey's house Zeno wants to make an impression on Kate to attract her attention and interest in him. Unfortunately he does not realize that she is young and not on his side when he tells her that he has sent a report about the miracle, which has occurred recently, to the Archbishop thinking that she might be happy because the report contained information of its truthfulness. She informs Mr. Hickey and Mr. Langlan about the whole matter which results in a huge quarrel. While they were arguing Zeno had a dark thought of murdering them using his revolver which was caused especially because of their disrespectful attitude towards him. In his eyes they were not able to understand that he wanted to help them but as we can see he just did not realize that spying is not absolutely appreciated by the majority of Irish people.

“Instantly I became murderous... Fortunately the impulse to kill vanished before a sudden perception of how I might miraculously humble the mad vanity in which these foolish people had turned upon me.”¹¹²

By the end of the story Zeno presents his bad character when he moves the grave of Wolfe Tone Fitzgerald back to the original bank of the river in the middle of the night. There is no good explanation why he does such an action but we know for sure that it led to the dismissal of Mr. Hickey from the church. It is important to mention that Zeno caused the dismissing of Mr. Hickey without thinking it through which means that the consequences of his actions was an accident rather than any evil masterplan. The church understands the whole matter

¹¹² SHAW, George Bernard. *Miraculous revenge* [online]. GIRARD, KANSAS: HALDEMAN-JULIUS COMPANY, 2007

as obvious that no miracle has occurred in Four Mile Water because all the graves are located on their original spot and the only thing that changed is that there is one new grave on the opposite side of the river.

6.3 Analysis

We may see two alternatives of who has made the pact with the devil in this short story. The apparent and first alternative would be the bargain between Zeno Legge and the Cardinal. The second possibility concerns the previous life of Wolfe Tone Fitzgerald who could have dealt with the devil while he was still alive and the fact that he is not allowed to lay along the graves of decent folks constitutes some sort of his punishment. It is important to point out that story follows Zeno's attitude and that is why I concentrate on the first alternative, leaving the second one marked as highly improbable.

The bargain between Zeno and the Archbishop which really is just a verbal agreement. However, we should point out that Zeno has many characteristics of the devil as well as inappropriate manners. He has hunger for revenge and the fact that his trivial revenge affects Mr. Hickey badly at the end is why Zeno Legge is the representative of hell in this pact. The devil who was born as a human.

7. Sir Dominick's Bargain: A legend of Dunoran by J. Sheridan Le Fanu

7.1 Basic Features of the Story

This short story is written in traditional Irish English. There are some Celtic expressions used through the story such as gossoon or poteen which means boy or spirits, usually made from potatoes and other organic elements of the land.

Another important factor in this story is that it has two narrators. Their names are kept in secret from us but both narrators are slightly described. The first narrator is described as a man who is foreigner of this land and the second one is described as a hunchback of a darker complexion who uses stick for walking as they meet each other. Because we need to tell them apart the name of the first one may be designated the Narrator and the second one the local Irish Hunchback Catholic peasant.

The reason why there are two narrators in this story is the Narrator tells a tale about Sir Dominick Sarsfield to readers and describes the event of meeting the Hunchback who tells the inner story. Except those two narrators in this story there are some other main characters such as Sir Dominick, the devil and Connor Hanlon who is a butler in the house of Sir Dominick. There is a relation between Connor and the Hunchback as the Hunchback is Connor's grandson, and the narrative relates an event which took place before the Hunchback was even born.

As the narrator walks across the Irish country he describes it at great length, including natural influences such as the wind or light. When he reaches ruins of an old manor house made of stone he can see that the ruins are overgrown with all sorts of plants and that this place has been deserted a long time.

The narrator walks in the night in this particular land and he is enjoying his solitude. He is captivated by environment. This moment is quite odd because a lot of people would not want to spend much time in such a place. Le Fanu is showing that something unusual will occur in this frightening time and setting.

The Narrator does not see the Hunchback who was standing in the ruins in the dark until the Hunchback talks to him appearing as a silhouette from the Narrator's point of view. After a brief dialogue, the Hunchback tells him a story of Sir Dominick Sarsfield of Dunoran. In this moment the story begins.

7.2 The Plot

Sir Dominick Sarsfield was an aristocratic Protestant who owned and lived in this ruined house ages ago. He was known as a gambler and had many debts. One day when he returned home after many months, his butler, whose name was Connor Hanlon, and the Hunchback's grandfather, welcomed him home. After the greetings, they both rested close to the fireplace. As they talk to each other Sir Dominick mentions his uncomfortable situation to Connor. He also mentions that he is going to leave to a nearby forest. He tells Connor that it might be a one-way trip and that Connor must not follow him under any circumstances. He explains that Connor might get killed for that. Everything was said so Sir Dominick sets out on his most likely last journey. It is obvious that Sir Dominick goes to the forest because he wants to run away from his troubles by committing suicide, yet, it is important to mention that he has not resolutely decided whether to do that.

When Sir Dominick gets to the place known as Murroa Wood he has last thoughts about his suicidal tendencies. During this time, some imposing gentleman reveals himself from the woods. He is a handsome young man wearing

cocked-hat with gold lace around it. They both greet one another by taking off their hats and the stranger in this situation starts the talk

“I am recruiting sir for my sovereign.” He pulls out a purse full of money saying “Don’t be afraid the money won’t burn you. If it proves honest gold, and if it prospers with you, I’m willing to make a bargain.” After that he says “This is the last day of February. I’ll serve you seven years, and at the end of that time you shall serve me, and I’ll come for you when the seven years is over when the clock turns the minute between February and March, and the first of March ye’ll come away with me, or never. You’ll not find me a bad master any more than a bad servant. I love my own and I command all the pleasures and the glory of the world. And if you rather wait for eight months and twenty-eight days, before you sign the writin’, you may, if you meet me here. But I can’t do a great deal for you in the mean time, and if you don’t sign then, all you get from me, up to that time, will vanish away and you’ll be just as you are to-night, and ready to hang yourself on the first tree you meet.”¹¹³

Sir Dominick had full sack of golden guineas when he returned home. He and Connor immediately started counting. He made Connor swear not to tell anyone about it. Connor broke his vow when he said everything to his grandson, the Hunchback, so that this story can be revealed for all to learn from.

Not even eight months past when Sir Dominick returned home again with worries because he had already gambled all the money. He got himself into a same situation once again. He was again in debts, unable to get out of them but money were not the issue in the devilish plan. Without having any choice, he had to see the stranger in the woods of Murroa again. Because Sir Dominick was a Christian he carried a crucifix around his neck but in this very moment he did not dare to bring it with him to the expected meeting.

“His heart beat thick as he drew near it.”¹¹⁴ The stranger revealed himself behind one of the big oak trees starting dialogue.

¹¹³ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>, 191.

¹¹⁴ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>, 194.

“You found the money good” says he “but it was not enough. No matter you shall have enough and to spare. I’ll see after your luck and I’ll give you a hint whenever it can serve you. Anytime you want to see me you have only to come down here, and call my face to mind, and wish me present. You shan’t owe a shilling by the end of the year, and you shall never miss the right card, the best throw and the winning horse. Are you willing?”¹¹⁵

Sir Dominick accepted the offer taking the needle from the devil. The devil took three drops of Sir Dominick’s blood spilling them into the cup of acorn and passed a pen to him. The devil insisted that Sir Dominick writes the same words he will dictate using blood from the cup. The contract was countersigned by Sir Dominick and both sides became holders of one copy. He was frightened walking back home. Soon he was without debts. With luck on his side and plenty of money he enjoyed his life again. In that time he also wanted to marry a woman.

As time went by he needed to meet up with the devil again. He was horror-struck when he was walking to the usual meeting point when the devil revealed himself again. He was sitting on the boulder under one of the trees. As a dress he wore some rags and he was looking twice the size he was when they met last time. His face looked dirty of soot having a big steel hammer with a handle a yard long over his knees. He stood up looking very tall and started a dialogue. The result was that Sir Dominick “was black as a night”⁴(p196) “and he grew worse and worse and darker and darker”⁵(196) having no smile on his face since that occasion.

At the end Sir Dominick called for the priest who was not sure that he could handle the situation just by himself so he send for the Bishop. They both went to the house of Sir Dominick’s to listen what he had to say, giving him advice afterwards. He shall live a moral life according to God’s commandments and that particularly means that he shall not gamble, play dice, swear etc. at least until the end of the specified time. They both believed that this could save his soul. Sir Dominick did not have much choice so he kept up these recommendations rigidly.

¹¹⁵ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>, 194.

When the day come, the 28th of February, the expected priest arrived to see Sir Dominick's condition. Although the devil was supposed to come that day to pick up the payment he did not and Sir Dominick had survived it. Suddenly he felt so alive. He wanted to share his joy so he sent invitation cards for a party to many people. The party was in full swing with many people including Sir Dominick gambling and drinking when one of the guests came to Sir Dominick and told him that he is mistaken. It is not 1st of March but 29th of February. He started to panic. He was overwhelmed with fear when he sent for the priest as for his last hope. It was one minute after midnight when the devil revealed himself in front of the house and told Connor "Tell your master that I'm here by the appointment, and expect him down-stairs this minute."¹¹⁶ Connor told his grandson that the sound of the sentence was really anxious. The terrified servant Connor went to deliver the message to Sir Dominick. Sir Dominick, obsessed with fear, declined to meet up with the devil but soon he realized he had no chance to escape so in his last moments he should at least show some dignity and so as a man on a green mile he walked to face his destiny.

"My grandfather was walking six or eight steps behind him and he seen the stranger take a stride out to meet Sir Dominick, and catch him up in his arms, and whirl his head against the wall, and wi' that the hall-doore flies open, and out goes the candles, and the turf and wood-ashes flyin' with the wind out o' the hall-fire, ran in a drift o' sparks along the floore by his feet. Bang goes the hall-doore. It was all over with Sir Dominick."¹¹⁶

The guests picked up his dead body and left it to rest close to wall. "But there was not a gasp left in him. He was cowl'd and stiffenin' already."¹¹⁷ The soul of Sir Dominick belonged to the devil according to the contract and he took it with him.

¹¹⁶ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>, 197.

¹¹⁷ FANU, Joseph Sheridan Le. *Madam Crowl's ghost: Sir Dominick's Bargain*. <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E870000-010.html>, 198.

7.3 Analysis

In most of the stories a bargain with a devil is fulfilled exactly according to a contract which was signed by both sides and this one is not different. Of course there are also occasional exceptions. Some individuals manage to avoid the consequences of the contract they signed as in “Faustus Kelly” by Myles na gCopaleen.

It is a mystery about what happened exactly with Sir Dominick when the devil had taken him when the time came with him but it is obvious that this short story does not have any deeper religious subtext. There is another prove of this assertion and it is in the fact that we do not know if living a life under God’s commandments is “a moral life” until the end of the defined time by contract which would help sir Dominick or the devil would take his soul anyway.

When the story is about to end, the devil shows qualities of a person who knows business well when he gives Sir Dominick quite a long time of 8 months and 28 days for reconsideration of granting his services to Sir Dominick in the future just in case that he signs a proper contract. The devil would, of course, gain a precious soul out of it. It is apparent that this bond is not the first the devil has made. He is calm and knows exactly how to lure poor Sir Dominick into signing the bargain.

Le Fanu wanted to present the rich aristocrats of his age, mainly Protestants with no moral values who inherited their assets. The avidity for money and goods of such stagnated people who have never really worked is evident here.

8. Washington Irving – The world of Washington Irving: The Devil and Tom Walker

8.1 Basic features of the story

The Devil and Tom Walker is the only American short story of a pact between a man and a devil. If the devil was not introduced as “The Old Scratch”¹¹⁸ (which is a nickname for a devil) almost right after he appears it might be difficult to determine who the real devil of this story is whether it is the stranger or Tom Walker himself. Tom is a man who is missing happiness, except for a short time after signing the diabolic contract, for whole his life no matter if he is poor or rich etc.

The story occasionally contains a direct speech among the characters but it is mostly told by the narrator as some kind of legend of the non-distant past. The English contains expressions of 19th century so it is not hard to read and it is one of the classics of American literature. “The Devil and Tom Walker” is “a variation on the legend of Faust, a 16th century magician and astrologer who was said to have sold his soul to the devil for wisdom, money, and power.”¹¹⁹

The story is set in 1720s, a few miles from Boston, in Massachusetts in the area mostly inhabited by Quakers and Puritans. The whole legend begins by telling about the nearby buried treasure of Kidd the Pirate who has never come back to pick up his stolen money and was hanged in England afterwards. Heaps of ill-gotten gold which are protected and guarded by the devil.

¹¹⁸ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 17.

¹¹⁹

http://www.jenniferhedayat.com/English_11/ENG_11_Main_files/the_devil_and_tom_walker.pdf, 320.

After that the main character called Tom Walker and his wife are introduced. “A meager, miserly fellow”¹²⁰ married wife as miserable as he is. They both have even thoughts of cheating each other. She is a quarrelsome, scolding woman who always hides all the valuables, attempting to keep them just for herself and her husband searches for them.

8.2 The Plot

The satiric story of pious people begins one day when Tom walks home through the forest full of swamps in the dark. Most people would avoid going through place such is this one but at this point, Tom is still a courageous person, fearing nothing at all. He comes across the ruins of an old Native American Indian stronghold where incantations were held in this place as well as “sacrifices to the evil spirit.”¹²¹ While he is looking around the place, he finds a skull and kicks it. “Let that skull alone!”¹²² says a great black man appearing suddenly and sitting on the stump opposite him. “The stranger was neither negro nor Indian”¹²³ but soiled with soot having red eyes and hoarse voice.

At first they clarify the presence of Tom on the land and property of the stranger. Tom believes that the land belongs to the man called Deacon Peabody who has been famous for having a great wealth making a sly bargains with Indians. The stranger explains that the man called Peabody is dead and he has a prior claim for this land because he was here long before him. Then a name

¹²⁰ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 14.

¹²¹ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 15.

¹²² KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 15.

¹²³ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 16.

Crowninshield is mentioned who was well known for collecting a huge amount of wealth by buccaneering. After that the stranger says

“Oh, I go by various names. I am the wild huntsman in some countries the black miner in others. In this neighborhood I am he to whom the red men consecrated this spot, and in honor of whom they now and then roasted a white man, by way of sweet-smelling sacrifice. Since the red men have been exterminated by you white savages, I amuse myself by presiding at the persecutions of Quakers and Anabaptists; I am the great patron and prompter of slave dealers, and the grand master of the Salem witches.”¹²⁴

After this listing of evil acts of American history Tom realizes that it is a devil to whom he is talking to. However, he is not scared after living with his quarrelsome wife. The stranger tells Tom that he is the protector of the great treasure of Kidd the Pirate which is buried not far from this place and offers possession of it to Tom under certain conditions. “What these conditions were may be easily surmised, though Tom never disclosed them publicly”¹²⁵ explains the narrator. Even though Tom was a very greedy man when money was the issue he had to think about this offer first so he went home.

When he comes home, his wife informs him that according to the papers, the rich and famous pirate called Crowninshield died in Israel. Although Tom does not trust his wife when money is at stake, he tells her about the offer he got. Her avarice is provoked by the thought of hidden gold and she immediately begins to persuade Tom in making the deal with the stranger. Tom is tempted to do so, but because he does not want to satisfy his wife he refuses. Many quarrels followed but Tom remains stubborn.

She decides to make the bargain by herself, having no fear of the devil. One day she goes to the fort and comes back after many hours grumpy. She tells Tom that she did not agreed with the stranger on certain circumstances of the bargain so she

¹²⁴ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 17.

¹²⁵ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 17.

is going to pay him a visit again with an adjusted offer. The content of her new offer also remains unknown so the next day she sets off on the road again, this time taking a silver teapot and spoons and all the valuable things they had collected at home with her but she never returns. There were couple of theories about what really happened with her but nobody did actually know that. The interesting fact is that Tom felt certain gratitude towards the stranger for taking care of his wife for ever.

Tom was not able to find the stranger for some time. This is quite different from the other works because mostly the devil comes immediately after you call for him. The narrator comments the stranger's absence with words: "He knows how to play his cards when pretty sure of his game."¹²⁶ While Tom was waiting to meet the stranger again he became eager to accept any offer he gives him for the promised treasure.

After some time, Tom meets the devil in the forest in his usual woodman's dress and makes a deal with him. There was one condition which was different from all the other works I have examined. The devil "insisted that the money found through his means should be employed in his service".¹²⁷ At first he suggested that the money could be employed in the African slavery traffic but Tom resolutely refuses so the devil suggests an alternative: that Tom would become an usurer and Tom agrees. The devil says "You shall extort bonds, foreclose mortgages, drive the merchants to bankruptcy--"¹²⁸ and Tom agrees to that with enthusiasm.

Tom soon became very wealthy, having a big house and valuable goods but as he got old, he became very anxious, regretting that he signed the bargain so he wanted to cheat the devil somehow. "He became, therefore, all of a sudden, a

¹²⁶ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 20.

¹²⁷ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 20.

¹²⁸ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 21.

violent churchgoer.”¹²⁹ He was so scared that he even carried a Bible everywhere with him. He was occasionally reading the Bible when he was doing his usurer’s job. We should mention that those two activities are not compatible with one another if you hope to come to heaven. Some people claimed that Tom had even his horse ready so he could try to run away and escape when the stranger comes.

One hot summer afternoon was Tom sitting in his countinghouse and was about to foreclose a mortgage with a land-jobber who was asking for a few months indulgence. Tom became very angry, losing his piety when the land-jobber told him that he had to make fortune just out of him and says: “The devil take me if I have made a farthing!”¹³⁰ Suddenly Tom hears three loud knocks on the door. He opens the door and there is the stranger holding a black neighing impatient horse. “Tom, you’re come for”¹³¹ said the stranger with his hoarse voice. The stranger lifted Tom up into the saddle “gave the horse the lash, and away he galloped, with Tom on his back, in the midst of the thunderstorm.”¹³² Some man said that he has seen the horse with Tom riding towards the stronghold. He also said that he has seen “*that shortly after a thunderbolt falling in that direction seemed to set the whole forest in a blaze.*”¹³³ When the people searched his property afterwards there were no valuables nor money but instead they found potatoes and shavings and the very next day the house burnt to the ground. That was the end of the story of Tom Walker and his ill-gotten wealth.

¹²⁹ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 22.

¹³⁰ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 23.

¹³¹ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 23.

¹³² KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 24.

¹³³ KOY, Christopher Erwin a Alena TELÍNOVÁ. *A reader in commercial fiction*. Dobrá Voda: Aleš Čeněk, 2003, 24.

8.3 Analysis

Although the devil indicates horrible events in American history, at first reading both characters appear evil. There is no such difference between the two characters making the bargain. Tom is actually a lot like the devilish stranger, for example, when the devil tells Tom that being an usurer he would lend the money at two percent a month and Tom says that he will lend them at four percent a month. Likewise Tom is happy about getting rid of his wife when the stranger kills her.

Tom believes that he can be saved by having a Bible with him or going to church repenting for his sins although he knows that he has signed a bargain with the devil. His impudence is shown when it is him who has dealt with devil and who moralized everybody around.

As in other stories, one can only cheat the devil with some kind of plan because the mercy of God is a matter of uncertainty, one will know if the praying worked just at the moment one is supposed to be wretched out of this world.

The devil is amazingly wise, having the best skills of a lawyer and businessman. His business skills are, for example, presented in the moment when they are discussing conditions of their bargain for the first and second time. The devil knows when to talk and what he has to say exactly to strike a deal.

When he first appears he comes all of a sudden out of nowhere just like in all other stories I have examined where the devil is presented one of the main characters. Finally the comparison of the devil with the usurers seems very accurate because most of the time the bargains are of a materialistic character. The usurers are the only ones having a profit out of it. The usurers also destroy lives of people from a certain perspective but it is very important to mention that people are the ones who come to them out of temptation for money.

9. Conclusion

9.1 Comparison

Focusing primarily on both characters signing the bargain as well as on the bargain itself, comparison only six of the plots is made. The one which is different is “The Miraculous Revenge”. All the other six plots contain an actual devil from hell represented by a real character or an object and also a bargain written on a paper, for example, in a form of a contract or deed of gift. “The Miraculous Revenge”, on the other hand, is a short story where we will not find any kind of legal document between the sides who only make a verbal agreement. Also there is no devil but only a human who acts like one. Thus we can call it a token bargain.

All the main heroes who make a bargain with some servant of hell are men. All of them are adults but not too old that they would not be able to decide for themselves which means that the option of choice is transparent in every story. Every wants to benefit from the bargain, for example, by gaining respect, an appropriate social role, an everlasting life or knowledge or else obtain money. The only woman who tries to deal with a devil is Mrs. Walker in from “The Devil and Tom Walker” but her negotiations are unsuccessful. There is always some kind of moral lesson incorporated in all the stories, except the one with Zeno. Generally it says believe in yourself by trusting in your abilities and skills, do not live an immoral life and there is nothing worth of your soul.

None of the stories describes the appearance of hell except *Doctor Faustus* where Lucifer takes Faustus with him to hell for visitation so Faustus as the only one actually knows where he would have to go when the time is up. The others fear things about which they have only heard. Fear is the most characteristic feeling in all the works. In every work, it intensifies according to the distance of

the main character to the knock on the door by running out of time. The length of time is always specified in the diabolic bargain.

All of the main heroes who have been so foolish to participate in making a deal with the ambassador of hell were seeking for a better life disposing with all kinds of advantages. However then their time, which was defined by the contract, came coming to an end. They all sooner or later wanted to reach salvation by changing their lifestyles mostly because of the fear of damnation with the exception of Zeno and Mr. Kelly. Every story except “Sir Dominick’s Bargain” has strong vengeance in it. The link between the motif of the pact with the devil and vengeance is evident as well as worldwide.

9.2 Contrast

In this passage we will focus on the way in which the ambassadors of hell are introduced in all of the stories. The devil’s differs in actions, behavior and appearance in every single story which I have analyzed as well as the bargain itself differs in many aspects. The devil is introduced as one of the characters in the story in “Sir Dominick’s Bargain”, “Faustus Kelly”, *Doctor Faustus*, “The Painter’s Bargain” and in “The Devil and Tom Walker”. These stories can be marked as the ones where we witness a typical bargain between a person and the devil which has to be confirmed with a bloody signature. The short story called “The Miraculous Revenge” and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* are works where the devil is deputized by a human and by a painting. Both of the stories can be marked as the ones with atypical diabolic bargain.

The reasons why the main heroes have made the bargain are different as well as the conditions of the contract itself. In three of the stories are the main character motivated by money and in others it is everlasting life and beauty, recognition,

knowledge or political power. The form of the bargain and its regulations is different in each one of them but we should definitely mention *Doctor Faustus* as the one where we can read the whole signed contract to get the best imagination of what the both sides had to do exactly. The differences in conditions of the bargains, for example include, the devil giving the main character in “Sir Dominick’s Bargain” or in *Doctor Faustus* certain amount of time before picking up his reward for the services while in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* the main protagonist is allowed to enjoy the pleasures of eternal life.

Every of the main protagonists acts differently and has its own way of behavior and expressing of his feelings. Differences appear when they try to resolve situations they are facing such as the fact that they will have to leave this world. Some of them repent for their sins while some believe they can counter their fate by good-deeds. Others think of some rational plan to get out of their troubles.

The rate of mortality when signing the contract with the devil is four dead against three who have survived at the end. The ones who had to pay the highest price with their soul for the advances they gained from the devil are Sir Dominick, Dorian Gray, Doctor Faustus and Tom Walker while Mr. Kelly, Mr. Gambouge and especially Zeno Legge survive without any terrible consequences such as when Simon Gambouge wakes up from his dream. Most of them are stone-cold in feelings and respect to other people or more precisely to their needs but there are also some who have heart at the right place such as Sir Dominick even though he gambles.

The last aspect in which the individual stories differ is the power they gain after signing the contract. In one case it is a never-ending source of life and in the other it is the art of magic or it can be even political.

9.3 Final Summary

The topic of my diploma thesis was to make the best analysis about the pact with the various representations of the devil in all of these works. The main focus was a character analysis of the people who made the bargain with the devil but I analyzed these characters who were not participants in the bargains but were somehow important for the plot.

In all works under examination every protagonist acts differently and has its own way of behavior with unique manners, habits, attitudes, characteristics of personality and the way of expressing his feelings. All of them are adults of the productive age and not too young and not too old to make their own decision. On the other hand, the devil differs in actions, behavior and appearance in every single plot. The bargain differs in few particular aspects.

The main heroes who make a bargain with some servant of hell are men and the only case when it is a woman who tries to deal with a devil is unsuccessful. None of the stories describes the appearance of hell but the drama *Doctor Faustus* does. The form of the bargain and its regulations is different in each one of them and in the drama called *Doctor Faustus* the exact wording of the contract is clear to analyze.

In the beginning of every bargain is a wish. The main character always wishes to be in possession of something or to have some kind of power. Fear is the most characteristic obsessive feeling thorough all of those stories and that feeling arises after the main protagonist signs the contract. When, their fear rises, the most they are closer to “the judgement day”.

We have also discovered that all the people who wanted the devil to enter their lives with his services did it out of their own free choice. Each of the stories contains some sort of a moral lesson. As we have mentioned the most important lesson is that nothing is worth more than our soul.

10. Resumé

Diplomová práce se zabývá „tématem faustovství“ v anglo-americké literatuře. Podrobně jsme prozkoumali čtyři díla irských autorů z 19. – 20. století. Nejdůležitějším v této čtveřici je novela Oscara Wilda (1854 – 1900) *Obraz Doriana Graye*. Další tři díla, která jsme mohli podrobně prozkoumat, byly krátké příběhy. Prvním z nich je „Zázračná pomsta“ George Bernarda Shawa (1856 – 1950), druhou povídkou je „Pakt Sira Dominika“, která byla napsána známým lidovým autorem Josephem Sheridanem Le Fanu (1814 – 1873), třetí, nesoucí jméno „Faustus Kelly“, napsal Flann O’Brien (1911 – 1966). Zbývající analyzovaná díla patří dvěma Angličanům a dvěma Američanům. Anglie je v diplomové práci zastoupena dílem Christophera Marlowa (1564 – 1593), *Doktor Faustus*, které lze považovat za stěžejní, neboť se stalo vzorem pro další práce s podobným námětem. Dalším anglickým zástupcem je William Makepeace Thackeray (1811 – 1863) s povídkou „Malířův pakt“. Americká literatura je reprezentována osamoceným Washingtonem Irvingem (1783 – 1859) s povídkou „Dábel a Tom Walker“.

Všechna díla byla souhrnně uspořádána, rozebrána a porovnána. Hledali jsme podobné znaky i rozdíly mezi jednotlivými pracemi. Soustředili jsme se na úkol představit čtenáři jednotlivé smlouvy s d’áblem. Analyzovali jsme účastníky paktu s d’áblem a podali jsme jejich charakteristiky. Změny charakteru a chování protagonistů před a po podepsání smlouvy. Co je pro ně tak důležité, aby zaprodali svou duši? V každém z těchto děl je přítomna osoba, která chce požívat nějaké benefity a ty jsou důvodem, aby se zaprodala navždy. Vždy je touto osobou muž. Pouze v jednom případě se s d’áblem pokusí jednat žena, avšak neúspěšně. Žádná z osob, obvykle špatného charakteru a mravů, která uzavřela pakt s d’áblem, si na počátku nedokázala představit peklo a ani o něm nepřemýšlela. S postupem času však u všech sílí strach z pekelného zatracení.

Jedinou výjimkou je povídka „Zázračná pomsta“, ve které je nevědomým d'áblem samotný člověk.

Přáním, které přivolá d'ábla, počínají všechny pakty, které byly analyzovány. V pozadí přání je touha po majetku, statečích, uznání, vědomostech či věčné kráse. K dosažení oné tužby je pak vždy nabídnuta duše ke směnnému obchodu. Ze sedmi lidí, kteří uzavřeli smlouvu s d'áblem, zemřeli čtyři. Každé dílo v sobě obsahuje ponaučení: Na světě neexistuje nic hmotného ani nehmotného, co by stálo za věčné ztracení vlastní duše!

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