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# Symbolism in James Hurst's *the Scarlet Ibis*

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## **Dedication**

I would like to express my thank to my supervisor Dr Walid Messaoudi who accept guiding me during my final year of my education at university kasdi merbah, I would like to express my pride to be a student at the department that headed by Dr Sayeh lembarek Samira, I would like to thank all my teachers for their effort and their hard work in teaching, finally I would like to dedicate the hard work of this research to my family who support me during my whole journey of education

Khedidja

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## **Abstract**

Studying texts specially text of art such as novels and short stories by applying different literary theories such as formalism theory, biographical theory and new historicism is the most process that used by critics when they analyzing those texts. The proposed research is an attempt from researcher to introduce the readers with analysis of the short story the Scarlet Ibis. This research included two parts, the first part is the theoretical part it includes two chapters the first chapter will introduce the reader with the definition of formal device that may found in any text of art and the second chapter will introduce the reader with an overview of the device Symbolism. The second part is the practical part it included two chapters. The third chapter will introduce the reader with the analysis of the short story the Scarlet Ibis and the fourth chapter it will introduce the reader with the use of symbolism in the short story the Scarlet Ibis.

**Keywords:** Symbolism, symbol, formalism, the Scarlet Ibis, literary devices

## List of Abbreviations

- (SS) : short stories
- (TSI) : The Scarlet Ibis

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# General introduction

## **The Background of the study**

There are many methodologies are used to interpret and analyze a literary text. the first methodology center on the text by using critical approaches such as formalism and structuralism, the second methodology focus on the author who write the text by using critical approaches such as the theory of biography, and others...etc (the nature of writing, 2017).

Perry state that literary criticism used to interpret and analyze the literary works such as novels and short stories and plays. There are different theories that would critics applied it to work of literature.

<https://www.languagehumanities.org/what-is-literary-criticism.htm>

Formalism is one of the literary criticism schools, its focus in the form of text, that means formalist critics or scholars would apply it on literary work by studying techniques and literary devices within a work of Literature.

<https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/english-literature/literary-criticism-and-theory/formalism-literary-theory/>

Arda ARIKAN and Mehmet Galip ZORBA summarized that, formalists accepted the ‘Art for art’s sake’ approach to literature and argued that each text should studied by looking at those formal devices that found within the text such as

tone, imagery, etc and the goal of formalist critics is find out how those elements work together (Arda & Mehmed, p 137-138).

Literary devices are techniques that writers use to create a special and pointed effect in their writing to convey information, or to help readers understand their writing on a deeper level furthermore authors will also use literary devices to get readers to connect more strongly with either story as a whole or specific characters or themes. Literary techniques are important to know because they make text more interesting and more fun to read. (Muniz, 2020)

In this proposed research, the researcher attempted to indicate the important of using formalism as an approach to the literary work the Scarlet Ibis by representing the analysis of the technique Symbolism in short story the Scarlet Ibis. This research would help both teachers and students by giving them a simple analysis of short story *The Scarlet Ibis* by James Hurst.

### **The structure of the study**

This Thesis have two parts the theoretical and the practical part. The theoretical part includes two chapters, the first chapter includes the definition of the elements and literary devices that may found in literature and the second chapter includes an over view of the concept Symbolism. The practical part includes two chapters the third chapter and the fourth chapter, the third chapter

contains analysis of the short story *The Scarlet Ibis* while the fourth chapter contains the analysis of symbols within the short story the Scarlet Ibis .

## **Statement of the problem**

The researcher has learned through literature that critics studied the text by looking at those elements that found within to determine how the elements work together to shape its effect upon readers.

For this reason, the researcher did handle the research to represent the formal device symbolism, and how this element was connected with other elements within the short story the Scarlet Ibis by James Hurst.

## **Research question**

- What is Symbolism?
- Does James Hurst used Symbolism in the short story the Scarlet Ibis?
- What are the main symbols in the short story the Scarlet Ibis?
- What is the important of using Symbols in the short story?

## **Research objectives**

The proposed research aims to determine the use of Symbolism and demonstrate how this technique being used in the short story the Scarlet Ibis. The main objective is to enrich the reader with simple understanding of the concept Symbolism and how this technique is connected with other elements of literature in the short story the Scarlet Ibis.

## **Research significance**

This research will present the result of application formalism on the literary work the Scarlet Ibis by presenting the element Symbolism within this short story. This research will help both new teachers and students of literature to get well understanding the technique symbolism and how this technique being used in the short story.

## **Motivation**

The first reason behind choosing the short story the Scarlet Ibis is that this it is full of literary devices specially the device Symbolism.

The second reason is that the short story hint very important subjects such as the life of disabled child.

## **Research methodology**

This research employed internet as a research method the data gathered through reading literature and taking note. The primary source was the theory formalism and choosing the short story the Scarlet Ibis to be the text that will be analyzed. The secondary source was gathered through reading web sites, articles, bloggers, articles and dissertations that found in Google and Google Scholar. The researcher did read the dissertations to get well understanding of the topic symbolism. Also, this research used the qualitative descriptive method in which aims analyze the symbols within the short story.

Reading dissertations helped the researcher to choose titles of chapters and subtitles of this dissertation while reading articles and blogs helped the researcher to take information from known resources.

The method close reading the short story being used by the researcher to take quotes from the passages that contains the symbols within the short story. This method would help in identifying the symbols.

Approaching the literary work *the Scarlet Ibis* by James Hurst from the perspective of formalists is the selected theory that being adopted by the researcher.

Chapter one  
Elements of literature

## **The theoretical part**

### **Chapter one**

#### **Elements of literature**

##### **Introduction**

Understanding the common element and literary devices is very important for student if they want to read or analyze a piece of literature, does not matter the form of literature poetry, prose, drama. Element of literature refer to constituent part of work and it exist in every literary work such as mood, plot, setting, point of view, characters, themes and she indicate that Literary elements used to help readers understand the stories furthermore it is not necessarily all literary devices appear in a work of literature (Stewart, 2021).

Literary devices take writing beyond its literal meaning. They help guide the reader in how to read the piece of literature furthermore they encourage the reader to perceive and interpret the world in new ways (Glatch, 2020).

Based on the literature above this chapter will introduce the reader with some elements that may found in any piece of literature especially work of art such as short stories and novels.



## 1.1 Plot

plot is the way that author create and developed events over time in narrating the story, all plots should has those elements in this order: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution (Muniz, 2019). Which means plot is the way that author create the event of the story from the beginning until the end. The first part of plot is the beginning of the story, it called exposition this part of plot includes the introduction of the story. The next part of plot called rising action this part starts when the events start to move on. the next part of plot is the climax, this part of plot is at the moment when the events reach the maximum of suspense. And the next part of plot is called the falling action, in this part of plot the story comes toward its end. The final part of plot called resolution, this part of plot includes the concluding paragraph of the story.

- Exposition is the beginning of the story where the setting, characters and the main conflict introduced.
- Rising action start when the story becomes complicated the main character fall in trouble and the conflict start unfold.
- Climax is in the situation when the major event happens in which the protagonist faces the antagonist.
- Falling action is starts when the story comes towards its ending.
- Resolution is the concluding paragraph of the story.

## **1.2 Setting**

Mac Donnchaidh state that Setting is how places, times and environment change in the story. setting is very important in developing mood and hinting themes. Authors describe setting by pointing the elements place, time and environment in the story

## **1.3 Character**

Mac Donnchaidh state that characters are those who do actions in the story. Character may take form of animal or human it is depend on the writer choice when create characters of the story. There are different types of characters such as protagonist, antagonist, flat character etc

## **1.4 Point of view**

Anderson (2022) state that point of view refers to who is saying the words of the story. A story told from the first person, second person or third person point of view.

- The First Person Point of view: the first point of view the main character is telling the story. Readers will see the words: I, ME, WE in the first person writing.it commonly used for narratives and autobiographies.

Example:

❖ I am riding my bike to school

- Second point of view: the writer uses the words YOU, YOUR and YOURS. the writer has the narrator speaking to the reader.

Example:

❖ Try to taste this cake you will like it

- Third person point of view: when the writer used one of these pronouns SHE, HE, IT, or THEY in narrating the third person point of view is often used in academic writing and fiction.

Example:

❖ She was helpful assistant

## **1.5 Theme**

literary texts have more than one theme. The themes can be the underlying idea that author convey it through the story. There are many subjects could be as an attractive theme such as loyalty, honesty, sacrifice, love...etc. Theme may be a moral or lesson for reader. The theme is general message that can applied to many different situations not only in the text (Zimmermann & Reed, 2020).

## **1.6 Tone**

Tone is a technique used by the authors in their piece of literature. Authors use tone by setting words and sentences in specific way that makes the reader feel

certain emotion. There are wide range of tone could authors create it in their piece of literature such as humorous, melancholic...etc (Sparks, 2023)

## **1.7 Imagery**

Writers use descriptive language in their piece of literature to create certain image in the reader's mind (Robinson, 2019).

Imagery is the art of creating mental images through descriptive language to help readers picture or imagine a scene by engaging their senses and evoking emotions (Kneller,2023)

For example:

- Figurative language: he has a stone heart.
- Literal language: the grass was green and the flower were red.

## **1.8 Symbol**

Symbol is a person, place, action, word or thing represents something other than its literal meaning. In broadest sense of the term, all words are symbols (Nordauist, 2019).

## **1.9 Flash back**

Flash back is a jarring shift in time and place within a narrative. The author takes this opportunity to illustrate reasons for character emotions or to create a back story that clarifies current event, moreover she added more that flash back often presented as a sequence of dreams or stories told by a character, flash backs can be brief and in frequent, a major part of work, or anything in between. They are very effective techniques for character development as they do not require stilted explanation. Flash backs engaged the reader and quickly illuminate the forces that have shaped one or more of people depicted the work (Dickins, 2018).

The technique flash back can appear in variety of setting and guises, flash backs used to fill in plot to provide more information about characters and present scenes in a different light (Mahon, 2023).

## **1.10 Personification**

Personification is a literary device that gives human attributes to non- human things, like inanimate objects or abstract ideas, using human qualities to describe inanimate objects allows writers to present lively ideas, allowing their work to come alive (Bal, 2023).

For example: The lightning danced across the night sky.

## **Conclusion**

Authors use element of style to create a beautiful work of art, without those elements there would be no short stories or any work of art. This chapter did introduce the reader with some literary devices that could be found in works of art short stories and novels and plays. The next chapter there would be a whole section about the literary device Symbolism.

# Chapter Two

## Overview of Symbolism

# **The Theoretical part**

## **Chapter Two**

### **Over view of symbolism**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter will introduce the reader with historical content of the theory symbolism and some definitions of the concept symbolism also He will recognize the main categories of this devise. By the end of this chapter the reader will be able to understand little bit about the concept symbolism.

#### **2.1 Historical context of Symbolism**

The sign of Symbolism movement begins in late nineteenth-century in French, this movement known by using metaphorical language in literary texts.

Symbolism was a late nineteenth-century art movement of French, Russian and Belgian origin in Poetry and other arts seeking to represent absolute truths symbolically through metaphorical images and language mainly as reaction against naturalism and realism

(<https://www.historyofcreativity.com/mid29/modern-art--symbolism> )



Also, this movement appeared as reaction to realism and it exist in all parts of arts such as theater, painting and music.

The Symbolist movement in literature originated during the 1850s in France and lasted until about 1900. Symbolism exerted a profound influence on twentieth-century literature, bridging the transition from realism to modernism. Symbolism also exerted a strong influence on the arts, including theater, painting, and music. The Symbolists sought to convey very personal, irrational, and dream-like states of consciousness, relying heavily on metaphorical language to approximate, or symbolize, an eternal essence of being that they believed, was abstracted from the scope of the five senses (<https://www.encyclopedia.com/philosophy-and-religion/other-religious-beliefs-and-general-terms/miscellaneous-religion/symbolism>).

The literary movement Symbolism has great impact on both art and literature.

Symbolism is both an artistic and literary movement that suggested ideas through symbols which emphasizes the meaning behind the forms, shapes,

colors and lines (<https://spokenvision.com/things-you-should-know-about-the-symbolism-movement/>).

## **2.2 The concept of Symbolism in literature**

According to Merriam Webster, symbolism is the art of using symbols especially by inventing things with symbolic meaning.

Nicole H (2021) states that, symbolism is a literary device used in writing to allow an item, person or plot theme to represent something beyond its literal meaning. She explained that the symbol can be anything, a person in the story, a location, an object, a word or even an abstract idea, if the item has another meaning beyond the obvious, it is a symbol.

Glatch (2022) states that Symbolism describes the use of concrete images to convey abstract ideas, and he illustrates that symbolism refers to the use of representational imagery: the writer employs an image with deeper meaning, non-literal meaning for the purpose of conveying complex ideas.

For example, the heart is employed as a symbol of love.

Authors use some common symbols within their text to help their readers realize what the symbol represents without the need for much more explanation. And she added that literary symbols are: objects, weather, animals, actions, places,

words, colors and sometimes characters that signify something different from their original meaning as result she comes with concluding that symbolism is the use of symbols with a story (Meirow, 2017).

Callaghan (2021) state that Symbolism is a literary device that uses: objects, places, people or ideas to represent something beyond their concrete literal meaning furthermore writers use Symbolism as a way to draw connection between their characters, their story world and events of plot, and she described how writers use Symbolism in a short story also she illustrate that to convey symbolism in a story, writers use setting, items, or even characters to communicate a deeper meaning

**For example:**

- A ferrous storm can be a Symbol for brewing conflict between two people.
- An object like rose that is beginning to wilt might be a symbol for couple's waning passions.
- Character like the couple's child might be a Symbol for the innocence hope, and ideals they once had.

## **2.3 Types of Symbolism**

There are two types of Symbolism used in literature, universal Symbolism and contextual Symbolism (Bal, 2023).

### **2.3.1 Universal Symbolism**

Are culturally accepted and need no explanation regarding what they represent and he illustrate that no single is entirely universal, as an item signify an idea in one location it does not have the same idea.

**For Example:** The America flag representing freedom.

### **2.3.2 Contextual Based Symbols**

Context based symbols can understand only in the context that being created in, without the context the Symbol would not make a sense and he also summarized that the main purpose of using Symbolism is to add emotion and imagery, define characters and connect themes.

## **Conclusion**

As what been mentioned above in this chapter, Symbolism is the art of using Symbols. Symbols could be anything could represent a deeper meaning. in the next chapter there will be more explanation about using symbolism, by

the end of the next chapter will the reader with critical analysis of the short story the Scarlet Ibis.

Chapter three

General analysis of the short story the  
Scarlet Ibis

## **Practical part**

### **Chapter Three**

#### **General analysis of the short story the Scarlet Ibis**

##### **Introduction**

Readers have different perspective towards reading short stories, some readers read for enjoyment and pleasure, while other read to learn new language and some readers read because they interested to a specific themes and morals...etc. for this reason the analysis of short stories is the process that make readers jump in reading a particular story. this chapter will introduce the reader with critical review of the short story the Scarlet Ibis.

##### **3.1 Plot Summary**

The short story the Scarlet Ibis began when the narrator looks at the grindstone and remember his little brother Doodle. The narrator starts with narrating his story with his brother Doodle from the day that Doodle born until the day he die, the narrator (the older brother of Doodle) were disappointed with his brother Doodle because he born with tiny red body, all his family and the doctor expect that he would die but the opposite has occurred that Doodle lived:

“It was his third winter) and we brought him out of bedroom putting him on rug before the fire place. For the first time he become one of us” (SS, TSI: 485)

When Doodle was five the narrator decided to teach him to walk, he succeeded in to make him walk:

“Once I had succeeded in teaching Doodle to walk, I began to believe in my own infallibility and I prepared a terrific development program for him” (SS, TSI: 489).

the narrator plan was making Doodle look like a normal child before he attended the primary school, but his plan failed:

“So we came to the clove of the seasons, school was only a few weeks away and Doodle was far behind schedule” (SS, TSI: 490).

After this event the narrator moved his narration to that day when the bird the Scarlet Ibis fall in his house and died because of his sickness, this event was a foreshadowing of Doodle death and after that the narrator moved his narrating to describe the last event in the story when he was training doodle in their place the Old Woman Swamp, but Doodle were tired and their effort was not enough to achieve their required result, the narrator did not accept this result, so he run as fast as he could and left his brother behind and when he return back to him he found Doodle dead.



## **3.2 Setting of the story**

Describing Setting in the short story *the Scarlet Ibis* start in the same time that market Doodle death, it was in the late of June when the grave flower could bloomed. The story takes place the narrator's house that were full fill with the memories of his little brother Doodle, both the sad memory and the happy memory. The story been told by the older broth of Doodle, from Doodle birth until the moment he died at the age five years old. The narrator did mention the year when Doodle died which is 1918.

## **3.3 Themes of the story**

### **3.3.1 Love**

James Hurst conveyed the subject of love and make it implicit within a particular sentence that reveal the deep love of the narrator toward his brother Doodle. The following quote contain the theme of love:

“There is within me (and with sadness I have watched it in others) a knot of cruelty borne by the stream of love, much as our blood sometimes bears the seed of our destruction, and at times I was mean to Doodle” (SS? TSI: 486).

### **3.3.2 Pride**

In the short story the Scarlet Ibis, the narrator did not accept having a crippled brother this was the main reason that leads him to manage a treatment

program for Doodle. That pride was a positive attitude from the narrator toward his brother and he did not realize that, that pride was the reason that push Doodle to walk:

When Doodle was five years old, I was embarrassed at having a brother of that age who couldn't walk, so I set out to teach him. We were down in Old Woman Swamp and it was spring and the sick-sweet smell of bay flowers hung everywhere like a mournful song (SS, TSI: 488)

What are you crying for? Asked Daddy, but I couldn't answer. They did not know that I did it for myself; that pride, whose slave I was, spoke to me louder than all their voices, and that Doodle walked only because I was ashamed of having a crippled brother (SS, TSI: 489)

### **3.3.3 Death**

In the short story the Scarlet Ibis, James Hurst refer to the theme of death from the beginning:

“ and their smell drifted across the cotton field and through every room of our house, speaking softly the name of our dead” (SS, TSI/ 484).

The whole story was set by the narrator to describe the scene of Doodle death in the end of short story.

### 3.4 Imagery

James Hurst used descriptive language to describe and define setting, tone and characters within the short story the Scarlet Ibis, this technique allowed reader imagine specific picture while reading. There are many examples of imagery within this story:

Doodle was frightened of being left. “Don’t go leave me brother”, he cried, and he learned to ward the coffin. His hand, trembling, reached out, and when he touched the casket he screamed. A screech owl flapped out of the box into our faces, scaring us and covering us with Paris green. Doodle was paralyzed, so I put him on my shoulder and carried him down the ladder, and even when we were outside in the bright sunshine, he clung to me, crying. “Don’t leave me. Don’t leave me (SS, TSI: 486)

In this passage the reader can recognize images that describe the whole picture of the event, this passage shows the attitude of the narrator toward his little brother Doodle, even though Doodle keeps clinging to him because he can see the good side within him. Also, this passage is full fill with sensation, the tone seemed to be frustrating and disappointing for the reader because the older brother should

treat his little brother with lovely language and not with harsh language. More over the author change the setting from the dark place “the barn loft” to the bright place “outside” where there was a sunshine to insert that the narrator is not a bad person and there is within him a bright side behind his cruel treatment toward his brother Doodle.

## **Conclusion**

The short story The Scarlet Ibis is both a dramatic and moral story. This chapter provide a simple analysis of its content and interpretation of its message. The next chapter will introduce the reader with the use of Symbolism in the short story the Scarlet Ibis.

## Chapter Four

The use of symbolism in the short story  
the Scarlet

## **The Practical part**

### **Chapter Four**

#### **The use of symbolism in the short story the Scarlet Ibis**

##### **Introduction**

The short story the Scarlet Ibis is full fill with many kinds of symbols, each one of them add deeper meaning to the context of the short story. This chapter will introduce the reader with the analysis of symbols within the story.

##### **4.1 Objects symbol**

###### **4.1.1 The coffin: (the casket)**

James Hurst did use the word coffin to describe the closeness of death to the character Doodle, the word been mentioned by the narrator twice as the following quotes shows:

“Daddy had Mr. Heath, the carpenter build a little mahogany coffin for him, but he didn’t die” (SS, TSI: 485).

“One day I took him up to the barn loft and show him his casket, telling him how we all believed he would die” (SS, TSI: 486).

Those quotes had the meaning of death, and shows how was death so close to the character Doodle when he was a baby. Based on those quotes it is clear that the object casket “coffin” is a symbol of death.

#### **4.1.2 The grindstone**

In the short story the Scarlet Ibis, James Hurst did used the object the grindstone, this object was very important to the story telling, because the whole story is stand on the time that the narrator looks at it and he remember Doodle.so the grindstone is a symbolizes the past memory of the narrator.

The following quote contains the related symbol:

“But sometimes (like right now), as I sit in the cool, green-draped parlor, the grindstone begins to turn, and time with all its change is ground away\_ and I remember Doodle.” (SS, TSI: 485).

#### **4.2 Weather symbols**

There is passage within the short story is hilly symbolic one this passage is when the author James Hurst describe the storm by using the narrator voice, when he describes the storm, he describes the emotions of the narrator in the same time, which means the author used two types of weather to express the narrator’s feeling. The two types of weather are the wind of the storm and the rain.

### **4.2.1 The wind of the storm**

When the narrator felt annoyed and angry because his plan failed to make his brother look like a normal child and not disabled at the same time he described the wind, the wind was blowing and when he calmed down the wind died so based on that the wind of the storm symbolizes the narrator's emotions. The following quote contains the related symbol:

The knowledge that Doodle's and my plans had come to naught was bitter, and that streak of cruelty within me awakened. I ran as fast as I could, leaving him far behind with a wall of rain diving us. The drop stung my face like nettles, and the wind flared the wet glistening leaves of the bordering trees. Soon I could hear his voice no more. I hadn't run before I became tired and the flood of childish spite evinced, as well. I stopped and waited for Doodle (SS, TSI: 493).

### **4.2.2 The rain**

James Hurst used the word rain to express the mood of sadness, his style of conveying the meaning of sadness, appears in the following quote (this quote is before Doodle died):



“When the deafening peal of thunder had died, and in the moment before the rain arrived, I heard Doodle, who had fallen behind, cry out, “Brother, Brother, Don’t leave me! Don’t leave me!” (SS, TSI: 492- 493).

In the moment that the character Doodle died, the author used the following quote to convey the sadness mood:

“The sound of rain was everywhere” (SS, TSI: 493).

The quote above shows how sadness was everywhere. Based on that the word rain is a symbol of sadness.

### **4.3 Animals as a symbol**

#### **4.3.1 The Scarlet Ibis**

When the author describes the picture of the bird and the character Doodle, and his description of their pictures shows how they are similar at many things like their sickness and their color also their destiny of death. The following quotes shows how the bird and the character Doodle seemed alike.

#### **The character Doodle quote:**

“He was born when I was six and was, from the outset, a disappointment. He seemed alt head, with a tiny body which was red and shriveled like an old man’s” (SS, TSI: 485).

“The doctor said that with his weak heart this strain would probably kill him” (SS, TSI: 485).

**The Scarlet Ibis quote:**

“By the time I had done this, Doodle had excused himself and had slipped out into the yard. He was looking up into the bleeding tree. “It’s a great big red bird!” he called” (SS, TSI:491).

“It looks tired,” Daddy said. “Or maybe sick” (SS, TSI: 491).

At the concluding paragraph of the short story the Scarlet Ibis, the narrator cried because his brother died. He call him my fallen scarlet ibis, which means that the Scarlet Ibis is a symbol of Doodle. The following quote shows the whole passage that contains the related symbol:

I began to weep, and the tear-blurred vision in red before me looked very familiar. “Doodle” I screamed above the pounding storm and threw my body to the earth above his. For a long long time, it seemed forever, I lay their crying, sheltering my fallen scarlet ibis from the heresy of rain (SS, TSI: 493).

Based on the above both of them were sick and have the same color and both of them died because of sickness, so based on that the bird is a symbol of the character Doodle.

## **4.4 Colors as symbol**

### **4.4.1 The color red**

James Hurst did use the word red many times in the short story. He used this word to describe the closeness of death to the character Doodle. The following quotes shows the style of the author when he did use the word red to convey the meaning of how death is near to the character Doodle.

“Dead birds is bad luck?” said Aunt Nicey, poking her head from the Kitchen door.  
“Specially red birds!” (SS, TSI: 492).

“He had been bleeding from the mouth, and his neck and the front of his shirt were stained a brilliant red. “Doodle! Doodle!” I cried, shaking him, but there is no answer but roping rain.” (SS, TSI: 493).

Based on those quotes within the short story it clear that the word red is a symbol of death.

## **4.5 The nature as a symbol**

### **4.5.1 The flowers**

James Hurst did use the word flower twice in the first part of the short story. the first time when the narrator describes the flowers of the garden, the description of the flowers gives the mood of sadness to the reader which means that the author

James Hurst used the flower of the garden as a symbol of sadness. The following quotes shows the related symbol:

“The flower garden was stained with rotting brown magnolia petals and ironweeds grew rank amid the purple phlox.” (SS, TSI: 484).

“The last graveyard flowers were blooming, and their smell drifted across the cotton field and through every room of our house, speaking softly the names of our dead.” (SS, TSI: 484).

The second time when the narrator was in the Old Woman Swamp with his brother Doodle. He describes the flowers, and his description of the flowers contains the feeling of happiness, which means that the author James Hurst used the flowers of the Old Woman Swamp as a symbol of happiness. The following quote shows the related symbol:

“After that day Doodle and I often went down into Old Woman Swamp. I would gather wildflowers, wild violets, honey suckle, yellow jasmine, snake flowers, and water lilies, and with wire grass we’d weave them into necklaces and crowns. We’d bedeck ourselves with our handiwork and loll about thus beautifued, beyond the touch of the everyday world. Then when the slanted rays of the sun burned orange in the tops of the pines, we’d drop our jewels

into the stream and watch them float away toward the sea  
(SS, TSI: 486).

## **Conclusion**

This chapter did introduce the reader with the main symbols within the short story the Scarlet Ibis and its analysis, the meaning behind each symbol was explained with simple way. According to the analysis of the symbols, the reader could see that using symbols is very important to convey emotions, hinting themes, develop events and making the story telling more interesting.

# General Conclusion

## General Conclusion

To finish with this note that the short story *The Scarlet Ibis* is the only work that marked the name of the author James Hurst. This work is the only work that been published in famous magazine which is *Atlantic*, because this work is full with figurative terms and literary devices such as foreshadowing, flashback, and symbols, all of those techniques make the literary work unique and art.

Selecting the theory formalism and focusing on the theory symbolism is the core of this research, the aim of this research is to enrich the reader with full understanding of the theory symbolism principally understand the symbols that been used in the short story *The Scarlet Ibis*. Depend on what been found in the theoretical part about symbolism that the symbol can be anything (object, color, character...) and this symbol may have three categories universal, conventional and contextual. This short story contains a few symbols and the majority of them refer to the death subject. According to my own understanding of the short story, the moral of this story is “Never push someone more than what he can handle that will make him meet the worst destiny”.

The author James Hurst use words as symbols in his writing and he repeat those words to make sure that the reader get the meaning of the symbols, the repetition of those words would make identifying the symbol easier for the reader to get the target meaning.

So based on what written above, understanding Symbols helps the reader to reveal the meaning and get better understanding the themes and interact with the text.

This research was an attempt from the researcher to help students of literature in identifying and analyzing symbols within the short story the Scarlet Ibis.

Last, but not least I recommend other researchers to select this type of style, which is symbolism to study it in another short story to help the student of literature getting better understanding of this technique.



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## المخلص

ان دراسة النصوص خاصة نصوص الفن مثل الرواية او القصة القصيرة من خلال اتباع مختلف النظريات المتبعة لدراسة النصوص كدراسة محتوى القصة ( الشكل) لاسيما دراسة السيرة الذاتية للكاتب و دراسة السياق التاريخي هي من اغلب الدراسات التي ينظر اليها الناقد عند تحليل أي عمل ادبي لذا هذا البحث هو محاولة من قبل الباحثة لعرض ما وجدته من تحليل لعنصر الرمزية المتواجد في القصة القصيرة ابو منجل القرمزي للكاتب جيمس هيرست. هذا البحث مقسم الى قسمين القسم الأول هو الجزء النظري حيث يجد القارئ تعريفات العناصر الأدبية التي يتكون منها أي نص ادبي فني و بصفة خاصة سيتعرف القارئ على عنصر الرمزية بينما الجزء الثاني سيعرض تحليل استعمال الرمزية في القصة القصيرة أبو منجل القرمزي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الرمزية، الرمز، الشكلية، أبو منجل القرمزي، جيمس هيرست، العناصر الادبية

## Résumé :

L'étude des textes notamment les textes de l'art comme les nouvelles et les courtes histoires tout en appliquant les différentes théories littéraires en l'occurrence de la théorie du formalisme, la théorie biographique et le nouveau historicisme et le processus le plus utilisé dans l'analyse des textes. La présente étude est une tentative pour présenter au lecteur une analyse d'une courte histoire de *Scarlet Ibis*. Elle comporte deux parties dont la première est théorique qui contient deux chapitres que le premier présente au lecteur une introduction avec une définition du plan formel tandis que le deuxième chapitre sert à présenter au lecteur avec une vue générale sur le Symbolisme. La deuxième partie est pratique pour sa part contient deux chapitres, elle consiste à analyser l'histoire de *Scarlet Ibis* dans le troisième chapitre tandis que le dernier chapitre comprend l'application du Symbolisme sur cette courte histoire.