

The Realistic Elements in the Novel of “Tom Jones” by Henry Fielding

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Abstract:

Allworthy, a rich widower lived in Somersetshire with his sister Bridget, Pen night when he returned home from his bed. Jenny Jones, a young domestic was suspected to be the mother of the child. Through Alworthy admonished her, he decided to bring up the boy. After this event, Miss Bridget was married to Captain Blifil and she gave birth to a son. Captain Blifil had an attack of apoplexy and died leaving Bridget, a widow. Though the two boys were brought up by Bridget, they development different dispositions. Tom Jones, the foundling was gay and carefree while Master Blifil was serious, prudent and sober. After Bridget's untimely death, the tutors Mr. The wackum and Mr. Square took the responsibility of training the boys. The tutors preferred Master Blifil to Tom Jones. Tom grew up to be a robust merry and handsome young man and Master Blifil became more reserved and sagacious. Young, handsome Tom attracted the Young ladies of the local shire and he was attracted by two local young women, Molly, the daughter of a gamekeeper and Sophia, the beautiful daughter of the neighbor, Squire Western. Tom Jones spent many hours with the Squire in riding to hounds. So he had little time to see Molly. Meanwhile, Alloworthy fell ill.

After his recovery Blifil complained to him about the behavior of Tom Jones, who spent all his time in drinking and winching during his illness. Allworthy who did not want to keep such an ungrateful person in his household asked Tom Jones to leave to leave and Tom Jones decided to go to sea. Squire Western decided to marry his daughter Sophia to Blifil. Sophia who did not like this, when she heard about Tom Jones's departure from home, ran away from home. She decided to go to London where a great, noble lady, her distant relation, lived. After many adventures and a few narrow escapes they reached London. Though they happened to spend a night at the same inn, the lovers did not see each other. When Tom found Sophia's muff, which she had purposely left behind, decided to dedicate him to her service. Squire Western who started chasing his daughter, Sophia, returned in the middle as the search seemed to unfruitful. After much strain Tom had found out the whereabouts of Sophia in Londian. But the lady with whom Sophia was staying was not a good lady. She made it difficult. For Tom to see her. Moreover, she had arranged marriage for Sophia with someone else as she herself was attracted by Tom. Sophia was much worried to hear about Tom's affairs with other ladies. She also learnt that her father had sworn to disinherit her, if she married that scoundrel, Tom Jones. Both Sophia and Tom Jones remained constant in their love in spite of the hardships. Then Mrs. Waters, formerly Jenny Jones, disclosed a secret, to the surprise of Tom. She told his that he was not her son, but the first son of Bridget. She proved it by a letter written by Bridget to her brother in her death bed, which was so f

ar concealed by Blifil. So, Tom became the heir of Allworthy's fortune and he left London with Sophia to Somersetshire to fix his wedding date. Blifil, the scoundrel was at the mercy of Tom Jones, who took pity of him and asked his uncle Alloworthy to pardon him.

Keywords— Psychological realism, True Love, father son Relationship Unity of Structure.

Introduction.

Henry Fielding was born in 1707 at Sharp ham Park, in the South of Somerset. He was born in a family which was closely connected with the family of Hapsburg. Fielding was the great grandson of the first Earl of Desmond. His grandfather was a Canon of Salisbury and his father was a general in the army. Fielding's maternal grandfather was a justice of the King's Bench. Fielding's earlier education started at home. His tutor was Oliver, a clergyman. Then he was sent to a school at Elon. There he made friends with George, who became Lord Littleton afterwards. In the school, Fielding acquired the knowledge of classics. Then he went to London to continue his studies. At the age of eighteen, Fielding fell in love with the daughter of a local merchant and he expressed his feelings in verse which later revised and published in his *Miscellanies*. Fielding's first play was produced in 1728. It was followed by his second play in 1730. For the next ten years he produced a large number of plays, of which 'Tom Thumb' a burlesque tragedy is the best. In 1734, Fielding married Miss Charlotte Cradock of Salisbury. As his theatrical enterprises were interfered by a new legislation in 1737, Fielding turned to the law and was called to the bar in 1740. After the publication of the 'Miscellanies; he devoted himself to law. In 1744, his wife died and in 1747 he married her maid, Mary Daniel, who proved to be a very good wife to him. In 1745 he started a paper and continued his career as a journalist. In 1747 he was made the Justice of Peace and in writing his novels Tom Jones; and Amelia, Fielding who was well read and well educated has written poems and essays but in the history of English literature, he is well known as a novelist and dramatist. The *Apology for Mrs. Shamela Andrew's* was his first novel. It was not successful.

Fielding's four famous novels are *Joseph Andrew's Jonathan Wild*, *Tom Jones*; and *Amelia*. In Somersetshire there lived a widower, Allworthy by name who had been greatly favored by both Nature and Fortune. Generous and pious in his person, he resided in the country with his amiable and discreet sister, Bridget, with whom he shared the amenities of a fine house, garden, and loyal retainers. One night just after returning from London, where he had been on business a full quarter of a year, Mr. Allworthy was about to retire when he noted something in his bed. Upon lifting the covers he discovered a tiny infant in a deep sleep. When the astonishment which this event inevitably caused in the normally undisturbed and well-regulated household had died down, Mr. Allworthy decided to keep the baby boy, but not without giving proper and lengthy admonitions to the suspected mother, a young domestic, Jenny Jones. Not long after this amazing discovery, Miss Bridget was finally married to Captain Blifil and promptly became the mother of a son destined to inherit Mr. Allworthy's estate. She was almost as promptly widowed when her husband suffered an attack of apoplexy, and the rearing of the two children became her responsibility. Not long after this amazing discovery, Miss Bridget was finally married to Captain Blifil and promptly became the mother of a son destined to inherit Mr. Allworthy's estate. She was almost as promptly widowed when her husband suffered an attack of apoplexy, and the rearing of the two children became her responsibility. Although of early the same age brought up in the same establishment, the two boys developed very different dispositions the founding's gay and carefree: Bridget's son's grave, prudent and manhood and Tom Jones grew robust, merry, and handsome while Master Blifil

became increasingly reserved and sagacious, Because of his more staid deportment, Mr. Allworthy's nephew was preferred by boy's training after Bridget's untimely death. However as might be expected, Tom drew great sighs of longing from the young ladies of the shire and, indeed, he found considerable interest in their company, although his contact with the fair sex was somewhat restricted by virtue of the thinness of the population in those parts as well as by his lack of opportunity to travel abroad. Nevertheless, two local young women of very different stations engaged his full attention at almost the same time. One of these, Molly, the daughter of a gamekeeper, a buxom, forward sort of lass, first captivated his fancy and his senses: while the other, Sophia, young lady of great beauty and delicacy, captured his esteem, his admiration, and his deepest devotion. Sophia was the daughter of the neighbor Squire Western in whose company Tom spent many an hour riding to hounds. The old man's passions were his horses, his dogs, and his daughter –in that order. He was also to stay to supper. Thus, handsome Mr. Jones spent more and more time on the Squire's estate where he wove a great deal of the lovely Miss Western and consequently had less time for the gamekeeper's daughter. Partly as the result of the latter's importunities and partly because of the dilemma of his position, young Jones fell into a distracted melancholy. To add to his distress, his kindly foster-father was taken seriously ill. Though Mr Allworthy recovered, Tom's joy in this event was marred by the jealous Blifil who led his uncle to believe that during his illness Tom had been concerned only with drinking and winching, and that such an ungrateful reprobate deserved to be banished. Ordered to leave, and in deep disgrace, Tom Jones left his home determined to go to sea.

Directly upon learning of her lover's departure, and in spite of her great fondness for her father, Sophia also fled her home due to the marriage Squire Western had contracted for her with Blifil, Having little alternative, she decided to make her way to London where there lived a distant relation, a great and noble lady, whom the disarranged girl felt certain would be her friend and protector. After many minor adventures of the kind which befall all travelers, and a few narrow escapes of a more serious nature which are likely to afflict ladies unaccustomed to the public highways, the strangest coincidence occurred: the lovers' paths crossed. Although they spent the night at the same inn, they did not see each other. In fact Tom was quite unaware of Sophia's presence under the same roof till the next morning when, to his great astonishment, he suddenly realized how much Sophia meant to him and he vowed to dedicate himself to her service along. Meanwhile, Squire Western had also joined the chase but he was soon dissuaded from what seemed a fruitless search and Sophia continued her journey to London uninterrupted. When Tom arrived in the great city, he made strenuous efforts to locate his ladylove and through devious means at last discovered her whereabouts. But this availed him little, since the relation with whom Sophia had sought refuge made it very difficult for Tom to see her. This worldly woman was not the benevolent.

Guardian, Sophia had hoped, but rather had an eye on Tom for herself, and designs for a marriage for her ward that were even more repugnant to Sophia than her father's plan concerning Blifil. But Sophia's loyalty was severely strained at this point by the reports of her lover's affairs with other women, as well as by her father's passionate hostility to Tom as the cause of his daughter's defection and disappearance. Even before she left

home, indeed, as soon as he learned of their attachment, the Squire had sworn to disinherit her and see her dead before he would consent to her union with such a penniless scoundrel. As for Tom, many temptations were cast in his way to wean him from his single-minded devotion to Sophia, but through these all he never lost sight of his goal. Even against such odds, the couple remained steadfast, and their constancy was finally rewarded by a most surprising disclosure made by Mrs. Waters, formerly Jenny son of Bridget Allworthy. Furthermore her claim was supported by a letter, written by Mr. Allworthy's sister on her death-bed-a letter which had been concealed all these years by Blifil. Thus the real scoundrel was unmasked and Tom took his right-full place as the heir to the Allworthy's fortune. With his changed circumstances, of courses, he had no trouble in securing the approbation of his father-in-law to be and re-admission to Sophia's longing as well as to her heart. Impatient after so long a delay, he fled with her to set an early wedding date.

CONCLUSION:

The novelist winds up the story in the novel artistically. At the end of the novel all the action come to an end. All the characters whether good or bad receive appropriate rewards or punishments and all the problems are solved. Nothing is left undetermined and there are no loose ends. The plot of 'Tom Jones' is closely knit with a unity of design. Thought there are digressions, still there is compactness and there is no split in the plot. The plot in the novel is known for its marked clarity and astute sense of craftsmanship.

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