

I. Introduction

It is said that modern age is an age without faith. The traditional values and views are under challenge because of the approach and change of a new society. The order of the traditional society, meanwhile, seems to corrupt and be gradually replaced by a new group of people, the bourgeois. The great advance of industry and technology and the World Wars all add to this phenomenon. However, modern age actually lasts for long. Even people define that after 1960 post-modern time has begun, but in fact, the so-called post-modern time is the continuity of modern time. In my opinion, therefore, the changes that post-modern time makes also add to the chaotic situation of the age without faith, in which the two works related to my thesis take place.

The atmosphere before the modern age in Britain was like a quicksilver, along with the feeling of uncertainty and the loss of faith. The publishing of Darwin's The Origin of Species in 1859 shocked British society and the whole Christian world, and soon after the progress of imperialism and the industrial revolution, people found that their previous recognition of the world changed and there was a gap in their common consciousness. Matthew Arnold interpreted and symbolized this phenomenon in his poem "Dover Beach":

The Sea of faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
Retreat, to the breath
Of the night wind, down the vast edges drear

And naked shingles of the world. (Abrams, 1492)

“The sea of faith” symbolizes the waves of Christianity all over the world, so the decay of the sea serves as a metaphor of a crisis in religion, a time that religion gradually could not be experienced without doubt. When the church became a decorated coffin, people lost the religious sense and their spiritual values changed.

Besides, Matthew Arnold regarded the coming new world as a tragic one due to the loss of faith. He saw the need for God dwindling among the world as in him, and without faith people were all lost:

Ah, love, let us be true
To one another! For the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain . . . (Abrams, 1492)

Under the influence of imperialism and the industrial revolution, British people at that time were in face of a beautiful perspective: “the cliffs of England stand / Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay” (Abrams, 1492). Consequently, material richness brought about spiritual poorness, and the lack of faith would lead to “ignorant armies”—the conflict of the mind and different beliefs. Therefore, the human misery which “Sophocles long ago heard it on the Aegean” contains not only the loss of faith, but the darkest part of humanity, a greedy and material life without spiritual values and even without morality. Then the approach of the age without faith is revealed.

Brighton Rock, published in 1938, describes the social conditions of modern British society in 1930s in between of WWI and WWII. Under the British Empire of

civilization and modernization, people should have led a happy and peaceful life. However, advantageous England, a country under God's concern, does not seem to keep its people's trust. It is said that Boer Wars¹ decreased people's trust of modernization in post-Victorian Age, and the competitors in economy like United States and Germany had raised "doubts about their material superiority" (Speck, 115). After the Boer War, England seemed not to be as powerful as before, and the humanity and morality began to change. People who had been in an advantageous position for long might feel astonished and confused when they lost it. As Dan McCall mentions in his essay, "Brighton Rock embodies a movement from disorder to order." (291) Maybe it was the sudden disadvantageous situation that contributed to the disorder, but it is doubtful if the order was reconstructed.

One of the protagonists in BR², Pinkie, may be the representation of maintaining the original order and power, while another one Ida may be the representation of a new power of the bourgeois. Succeeding to the territory and leadership of a little gang in Brighton, Pinkie tries every way to keep all he gets but in vain. He murders Hale for showing and strengthening his power and leadership in the gang, and the police believe it to be natural death. However, it doesn't convince Ida Arnold, who was with Hale just before he died. She sets out to find the truth, and she comes across naive waitress Rose who may prove that Hale was murdered. In an attempt to keep Rose quiet, Pinkie marries her. But with his gang beginning to doubt his ability, and his rivals taking over his business, Pinkie starts to become more violent. He first murders Spicer, one of his old gangsters, and then he wants to murder Rose. In the end, Ida comes along with a policeman to stop him, and Pinkie

¹ The Boer Wars were the name given to the South African Wars of 1880-1 and 1899-1902, that were fought between the British and the descendants of the Dutch settlers (Boers) in Africa. After the first Boer War, William Gladstone granted the Boers self-government in the Transvaal.

² In this thesis BR represents Graham Greene's Brighton Rock.

dies in a fatal accident. Apparently, it is the fight between traditional thought (good/evil) and new thought (right/wrong).

A Clockwork Orange describes the British society in 2017 which in reality belongs to post-modern time, along with a repressive government, violent street gangs, and a deadening mass culture. Nevertheless, since the novel was published in 1962, there are still some qualities and characteristics of the British society in 1950s showed in the lines, such as the popular clothes and the over-confidence of the technological advance at that time. After about two decades after WWII, the society was still under the influence of the consequences it brought about. People tended not to believe in politics and religion, due to the great impression of damage and destruction that World Wars brought about. Besides, the experience of WWII made the political attitude of labor class become active. The line between classes became vague, and the traditional order thus corrupted. Furthermore, the society faced the influence of immigration, especially the immigrants from East Europe (which is related to the dialect Nadsat which Alex uses). The sudden change of the homogeneous society made a crush to the original social regime and social values, and how to balance the hybrid society has become a vital issue.

In CO³, through the narration of the protagonist Alex, people will find that the government or authority is not a useful mechanism anymore, and instead it comes to be a repressive and corruptive hegemony to people. In the beginning Alex and his gang fool around every night in the streets, bullying people by hitting, robbing and raping. One day they break into a lonely old woman's house for robbing, and then the police come but other gangsters betray Alex by leaving him there. After proving

³ In this thesis CO represents Anthony Burgess's A Clockwork Orange.

the woman is dead, Alex is sent into "staja"⁴, and is sentenced to fourteen years. Prison officials and the Minister of the Interior offer Alex the opportunity to undergo Ludovico's experimental treatment that guarantees his release from prison, and Alex agrees. However, Alex becomes a victim in the society, because he loses part of freedom including listening to music, and is forced to choose only "good" things. Alex is then not accepted by his parents, those who he bullied before, and some policemen (one of them used to be in his gang), and he is also used by politicians. At last Alex is cured, and he suddenly feels like growing up, and desire to have a family, especially a son like him. The novel shows one idea that people are just clockwork oranges of God, but at the same time it shows that people are just clockwork oranges⁵ of the government.

In my opinion, the background of CO is just about the time that modern age makes connection to post-modern age, so from "Dover Beach", BR, to CO, the process beginning from the eve of modern age to the end of it, is presented completely. Thus it is revealed that modern age actually lasts for long, and the two works honestly show the change and the chaos of social values that Matthew Arnold predicted. The common background of BR and CO links Pinkie and Alex together first, and then their abnormal psychology and behavior make another connection. Still, there are some other similarities that they face the loss of order and identity and the familial problems. Therefore, by analyzing those similarities, the reconstruction of this disorder and the regain of identity are expected.

The similarities of BR and CO are undoubtedly the juvenile delinquency of Pinkie and Alex and also the disordered society of the big modern age. Theories of psychology will be adopted to analyze juvenile delinquency in this thesis, and being

⁴ It means state penitentiary with the sound of state jail.

⁵ It means a fake orange with clockwork, which symbolizes people who are controlled by the government without their free will.

related to the sphere of psychology, the circumstance of modern British society will be a key point to analyze the two juvenile delinquents' behaviors. As Wagner mentions, the development of modern society entailed "the risk of moral impoverishment" (65). More or less, they are under the influence of outward circumstances, which may possibly be the cause of their behaviors and attitudes toward the society, and in fact, part of their attitudes is closely related to the spirit of modernist theories. Therefore, the juvenile delinquency of Pinkie and Alex will be analyzed along with the loss of order and identity.

I think psychological theories take a great part in analyzing juvenile delinquency in the thesis: By researching the psychology of abnormality, Pinkie's anxiety and Alex's madness, and also Pinkie's fear of sex and Alex's like of sex by raping, can be interpreted as mental diseases. Besides, the cause of Pinkie and Alex's violence and murder can be referred to whether they are evil or not. Another vital issue is the question of childhood development and family. "Home" is indeed a significant effect that influences Pinkie's and Alex's behaviors, so the relationship of the family is also a way to analyze the phenomena of juvenile delinquency. By the loss of home, they lose their self-identity. Therefore, through working on the psychological approach, how the environment influences people can be revealed. The psychoanalysis of the phenomena about juvenile delinquency brings about a cogitative question: Are Pinkie and Alex good or evil? Maybe psychological theories can give assistance to identify it.

Therefore, I intend to analyze Pinkie's and Alex's abnormal behaviors with the psychological theories of Sigmund Freud, who is the most famous and contributive one among the beginners of psychological analysis, with the belief that many parts of Freud's theories can help me realize the possible psychological patterns of the two

boys' behaviors and thoughts.

