

Original Research Article

## Positive and Negative Abstractions in Maugham's Short Stories "Princess September" and "The Three Fat women of Antibes"

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### ABSTRACT

This research has illustrated a comparison between positive and negative Abstractions in Maugham's short stories "Princess September" and "The three fat women of Antibes". The focus of this research is to search beauty in abstractions. Beauty is an art that does not lie in objects directly. It exists in the perception of a person. Perception varies from person to person. Human senses perceive this beauty even in ugliness. Aim of this research is to find beauty in emotions i.e. love, care, sincerity, pleasure, even in emotions which people commonly consider have no beauty i.e. hate, anger, jealousy, selfishness. Researcher has explored beauty in these emotions through the characters of Princess September and The three fat women of Antibes. Methodological approach for this research is qualitative and descriptive. This approach falls under the mantle of literary analysis of specific criticism that exists as secondary resources of the research. Primary resources of this research are selected short stories of W. Somerset Maugham. This research focuses on the theory of aestheticism given by Francis Hutcheson including the works of Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Schiller and George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. The conclusion of this research debates upon aesthetic beauty lies in the mind. The short stories "Princess September" and "The three fat women of Antibes" manifest beauty in these emotions through sense experience. Researcher has made a distinction between positive and negative ideas that reflect beauty in a same manner. Beauty is not present physically, but present internally. Our mind is not enough capable to perceive beauty alone. It can be experienced through sensation and people attain pleasure. So it can be said that beauty provide satisfaction in the form of pleasure.

### Introduction

Abstractions are concepts which are present in minds. An abstraction is something nonspecific, a concept that isn't concrete (Collins Dictionary). Abstraction is the noun from the adjective abstract, which derives from the Latin abstract here "to divert." Which suggests that an abstraction is something that is drawn away from concrete reality. It begins with an action commonly used as quality that is possessed by someone. It can be seen in painting, music, dance, poetry, thought or number of media productions. Abstraction in poetry or in music will be different because it is used in different perspectives. According to the binary system it takes different shapes (Hume, 1739, p. 10). It is a concept that is separated from physical manifestation. These concepts are gained through sensory experience with the help of body mechanism. As compared to concrete concepts abstract ideas are complex. It may not hold a single perspective. Abstractions abide a wide range of emotions. Concepts do not have perception in mind but also in language through which anyone can recognize the meaning. Abstract ideas have variety of dimensions like perception, action and through words. These concepts are gained through emotional or social experiences as well as inner experience. Multiple dimensions characterize different abstract ideas. It has

different values for these ideas. A person cannot learn these concepts but through experience he will be able to learn (Hume, 1739, p. 11).

David Kelly in his research "A theory of abstraction" (1984) illustrated that concepts are professed by sense experiences. Concepts are acquired through inspection of likeness between objects. It is said that ideas are innate but they are the outcome of emotions. He argued that an abstraction has two different levels to evaluate. At first level he said that each constituents of cognitive task must be consistent and has an ability to accomplish that task. The second level constituents should fix together in a logical order. Abstractions through senses can explore art (Kelly, 1984, p.3, 4).

Abstractions are unchanging, unending and perhaps universal and better understood as concepts or ideas. These ideas need to be conceptualized as they cannot be adorned by real instances. It means they have no substantial representation for example beauty is an abstract idea that lies in someone's mind that do not have physical appearance and it vary from person to person. These ideas include jealousy, anger, sadness, love, care, confidence and so on. These abstract ideas do not have any boundary, identity and clear denotation. These ideas are attached to our philosophical and emotional approaches. Kelly in his *A Theory of Abstraction* (1984) also illustrated that these ideas come from the process of thinking and derive a concept from the perception of similarities (Kelly, 1984, p. 06).

It is a conceptual process which may form an abstraction. The cognitive abstractions are observable with the help of internal senses. That may indicate the perception of beautiful. Abstract ideas are the depiction of the things that are visible. It may be an object or picture separated from the real world or may be another work of art. Natural world is redesigned by art and its purpose is to express abstractions out of the object. Abstract thinking is actually to think about things which are dispossessed of facts or from specific form. They can be experienced or felt through intellect (Kelly, 1984, p. 7).

Raymond A. Mar and Keith Oatley (2008) in their research "The Function of Fiction is the Abstraction and Simulation of Social Experience" explicate that researchers and psychologists ignored the narrative literature. They thought that its only function is to entertain and has no relation with empiricism. Mar and Oatley argued that fiction has an important purpose. It explores profound and conscious sense experience for readers. Authors explore that human nature is a narration in which imitation has dual but separate senses. In one sense narration imitates world through abstraction which creates a connection between social agents. Secondly stories contain abstract ideas that depend upon several elements like imagery and literary words. They create a simulative experience for reader. These abstractions run over the minds and provide effective understanding about social world (Mar & Oatley, 2008, p. 185).

Love, freedom, happiness, anger, hate, pleasure are some common and familiar terms. No one can see them, if someone hears these words he can imagine and simply understand their meanings. But meaning won't stay same. For instance, love is a word everyone has listened from their childhood. Does it mean the same for someone who heard this word when he was four years old? What does it mean to someone who heard this word when he was ten years old? Now is this word same for him? So the meaning keeps changing. It will have different meaning for love of wife, love of parents, love of children or friends. In the short stories of Maugham *Princess September* and *The Three Fat Women of Antibes* the concept of love is varied and so on.

The selected two short stories by Maugham i.e. *Princess September* and *The Three Fat women of Antibes* are highly explicated with abstract elements. In *Princess September* researcher found love, care, jealousy, resentment and confidence and so on. From the beginning of the story, Maugham wants to explore jealousy by presenting the characters of eight elder sisters who want to let down their youngest sister Princess September because she is favorite daughter of the parents. She never dealt with the confusion of having her name changed. Sisters seem to jealous not only having the one name but also that she had a singing bird. That bird was praised by king and queen. Other abstraction is freedom which was taken from the parrot to tease Princess. The ground of the loss of parrot is that everyone and everything needs to be controlled. There should be or should not be free will which is very important.

*The Three Fat Women of Antibes* explores the intangible elements i.e. care, love, sincerity, passion and hatred and so on. The women were extremely fat and decided to reduce weight. They purchased a house in Antibes but their regimen failed. On the other hand, Maugham presents care that how they spent good time with each other and shared a same bond. They supported each other in their diet. The new character of Lena strained the three women's friendship to the bursting point. Where Researcher has identified anger, hatred and jealousy.

If Empiricism is the dogma that all knowledge of the world derives from the senses, then it would be natural to acquire concepts through sense experience. Empiricist expected to have a theory of conception. This expectation is pleased by the historical empiricists. Both in the Aristotelian tradition, and in the modern tradition from Locke to Mill, everyone explored several attempts to provide a theory of abstraction (Maioli, 2016, p.7).

Berkeley and Hume, of course, explicate the very notion of 'abstractions'. They explain how words are associated with module of particulars and thus function abstractly. In this very wide sense, empiricism rejects the claim that abstract concepts are inherent but it is committed to its nature of preoccupation. Empiricism have typically held that knowledge of the world rests on groundwork of basic judgments, which is justified directly by perceptual experience.

Of course, this applies only to similarities among perceived objects. In respect of such perceptible properties like color, shape, weight. These properties can be isolated on the basis of concepts which are formed directly from perception. Concepts differ from concrete ones as they do not have a bounded, identifiable and clearly perceivable referent. Within these frameworks concepts derive their meaning from the same perception, motor and emotional systems that are involved in online interaction with the world (Berkeley& Hume, 1748, p. 11-20).

### **Purpose of the Study**

The Purpose of this research is to explore abstractions employed by Somerset Maugham in the selected short stories as cradles of aesthetic appeal. Beauty is different from goodness sometimes it can be seen in negative elements like jealousy, hatred and anger. This study will attempt to give the understanding to the reader who read despite their non- literary background. The beauty cannot be seen only in positive things rather it is inner beauty which can be seen even in distasteful elements. Researcher will examine the beauty of ideas in positive and negative abstractions in two short stories from the collection of Maugham's fiction i.e. Princess September and The Three Fat Women of Antibes, this revealing examination will be different from the surface meaning of the stories. This research will attempt to cover the deeper aesthetic appeal of these short stories. Researcher will focus on the stories by manifesting beauty of ideas which is the purpose and scope of this study.

### **Thesis Statement**

Positive and negative abstract elements are abundantly prevalent in Princess September and The Three Fat women of Antibes which can only be perceived by the aesthetic sense.

### **Rationale of the Study**

This research focuses on positive and negative ideas that explore beauty. Beauty does not present in ideas itself rather it can be seen through sense experience. The rationale of this study is to search aesthetic sense which is here in mind and someone can explore through sensation. This aesthetic sense is lavishly prevailing in *Princess September* and *The three fat women of Antibes*.

### **Research Questions**

In order to reveal beauty in abstractions this research has sought answers to two questions from selected short stories *Princess September* and *The three fat women of Antibes*:

- How positive abstract elements are receiving beauty in *Princess September* and *The Three Fat Women of Antibes*?
- How abstractions in *Princess September* and *The three fat women of Antibes* acquiring beauty from negative emotions?

### **Research Objectives**

In order to answer these questions researcher has two main objectives:

- i) To explore positive abstractions like love, care, sincerity, pleasure, bonding, loyalty, and confidence that is receiving beauty through sense experience.
- ii) There is a need to justify that negative preoccupations like anger, jealousy, possessiveness, selfishness attain beauty from those feelings that has considered not beautiful but beauty is an idea presented in mind not in emotions.

## Theoretical Framework

Aesthetic is a very broad term in which senses have central place. Hutcheson's theory includes the concepts of morality in which primary importance is given to moral sense. He describes the moral faculty as intuition. He claims that beauty can be perceived by universal truths when he operates general causes, moral code and acts. According to Hutcheson humans have a diversity of external as well as internal senses in which some are impulse and some are direct. Sense can be defined as any determination of our minds to receive ideas independently on our will and to have perceptions of pleasure and pain. Beauty, taste, pleasure and imagination is then recognized under the title of aesthetics. Due to the attention toward human nature, taste and morals can be established. There are something that naturally please us because our sentiments are organized and so they are contributing to beauty. To Hutcheson aesthetic judgments are cognitive and take place through senses (Hutcheson, 1725, para.3).

Hutcheson claims that beauty does not exist in objects directly rather absolute beauty is present in minds. Original beauty is not understandable as quality that an object has by itself. It is a quality that can be determined only by pleasure someone feels. Perception of beauty is actually an experience of pleasure. He says that beauty is taste. It arises when someone has an experience of pleasure. He calls this experience as beauty. So taste and pleasure have a link with beauty (Hutcheson, 1725, para.4).

Act no. 1 *The origins of beauty, order, harmony and design* (1729) in which Hutcheson explicates sensations are something that acts upon objects. These objects are externally presented to us. Our mind is not enough strong to perceive the idea of beauty alone. It is external objects by the help of which mind can perceive the beauty. There are two types of sensations like hearing and seeing through which someone can understand the acuity of beauty. Hearing refers to sounds while seeing refer to colors perceptions. Colors have many differences among themselves as have sounds. But colors have more in common as sounds have too. Despite this colors or sounds have differences because of their situation (Hutcheson, 1729, p.4).

Through observations and experience about different species animals we find a beauty. Beauty either related to animal's physical form or inner form. All the structures of animals contain uniformity. This uniformity is very evident in same species animals through which we can make distinction between different animal species. Mind has strange tendency makes comparison between different objects. Passions of animals sometimes resemble the human's passions. This resemblance makes sense that everything in the world presents other things. Works of artist has a quality that describes about the artist's thinking of beauty. Sometime artist does not create his work to attain original beauty. Because relative beauty and a little original beauty can give more pleasure. Original beauty alone cannot give a sense of perfection. Beauty is relative to mind that perceives it. Beauty comes from an object and as an imitation of original beauty. This beauty is based on unity between original and imitation. Poet's description about natural object or a person has this relative beauty. Beauty arises from an object can describe the intentions of its maker. It provides a new vision of beauty for aesthetics in works of nature (Hutcheson, 1729, p.18).

## Delimitation

To avoid broad discussion this research, W. Somerset Maugham's writings is limited to two short stories *Princess September* and *The three fat women of Antibes*. This study is limited to Francis Hutcheson's theory of aestheticism *An inquiry into the origins of art and beauty* treatise 1 and more limited to its act no. 1 *The origins of beauty, order, harmony and design*.

## Research Methodology

This research will be qualitative and it will be using descriptive and comparative methods of research.

### Primary Sources

Primary sources of this research are text books of these two short stories *Princess September* and *The three fat women of Antibes* by William Somerset Maugham

### Secondary Sources

Secondary sources for this research are books, journals, articles and some internet websites.

## Literature Review

This research focuses on few abstract ideas in which some are positive and some are negative i.e. love, care, anger, jealousy, passion, confidence, hatred, pleasure and few more. All these intangible elements are expounded in Francis Hutcheson's theory of Aestheticism (1725). This section is based on the critical analysis of literature review before starting this thesis and this literature has smoothed the progress of research that what are the accords, differences and gaps of this research related to literature review to make researcher's stance clearer.

Manpreet Singh in his research "Man woman relationship in the selected novels and short fiction of W. Somerset Maugham" (2002) illustrated that fictional characters are created men and women as flesh and blood by Maugham. The earthiness is special to their relationship and they only seek sex. They live in a meaningless world where women are bound to social standard and men have some purposes that are artistic. His characters both men and women confront situations where they are forced to romantic and physical urges that causes sufferings and unhappiness (Singh, 2002, p.184). Anti-romantic attitude of Maugham toward male and female relationship tends to exaggerate the elements of sexuality which involves meeting of the bodies only and not souls and also ignores spiritual and emotional feelings. It creates boredom and restricts one's freedom. Life condition is meaningless where men try to escape and find meaning in art and women try to bind them with social norms. Maugham's men depicted as idealistic and seeking for art in life whereas women's basic aim is to get married. Women were imposed by strict social roles in male dominated society (Singh, 2002, p. 187).

The difficulty in Maugham's characters is that men are stereotype about women and women also do the same. According to Maugham man woman relationship accounts for social, physical and romantic necessity. Peace and harmony is shattered in man woman relationship by the differences in ideals and objectives among the men and they never run smoothly. Maugham tries to resolve this conflict between his characters from both sex through meaninglessness of life and expresses his wishful views in the words of Dirk Strove in "The Moon and Sixpence" (1919) to live humbly and seek the love of people. But today men and women relationships are distilled by changing social and economic norms of society which creates complication but Maugham's theme of love, hate, adultery and jealousy are enduring and will hold humankind (Singh, 2002, p. 189).

Singh's research helped this thesis to understand the complexity between men and women and she also found an attempt to understand the background of men women relationship in philosophic outlook of world and human nature. The relationship between man and women is Maugham subject in the larger context of human experience which continues to charm the reader. Although she will discuss the different aspect of human nature where beauty is determined by different sense experiences i.e. Frank (main character of The Three Fat Women of Antibes) annoying when Beatrice is eating madly and putting ice on diet plan. We can see beauty in anger because somehow this anger is related to concern for each other.

*Colonizing Masculinity: The Creation of a Male British Subjectivity in the Oriental Fiction of W. Somerset, Maugham* a thesis by Philip Joseph Holden (1994) explicates that gender studies and post colonialism introduce Maugham's oriental fiction. Maugham produces a text of fantasy of stable British male perspicacity which was based upon emotional and corporal moderation, rationality and conjecture. Status of male subjectivity was tested by his actions in colonies. Maugham perhaps did not make an attempt on a liberal British Imperialism but codes of imperial masculinity identifies his writings and narrations. Maugham's homosexuality has a central question of masculinity (Holden, 1994, p. 34). This question is approached by in a roundabout way by critics. Structure of masculinity in western culture consent that little intimacy between men is not defined as homosexual. Collection of Maugham's novel and short stories discuss the oriental fiction to discover inherited properties, parallels, superimpositions and contradictions between the structures of masculinity. This research can help to understand the dispute that Maugham's writings are worthy of attention in the light of postcolonial theory, variety of significant approaches considered as lesbian and gay studies and recently perplexing theory. The strong investment of British male subjectivity and also the significance, decoration and qualities that are associated with texts of homosexuality can also be understood (Holden, 1994, p. 285).

Jaroslav Soukup in his research *Colonial Issues in W.S. Maugham's Short Stories* (2010) shows the era of European colonial expansion considered as the most influential time in human history. It is also considered as most controversial period. In British literature these colonies were depicted as strange exotic places bearing the stamp of apartness. Maugham's short stories are based on a different picture of these colonies. His writings are closely related to experiences of his travel to South Pacific. He uses colonies as an entertaining element for his stories and characters (Soukup, 2010, p. 9). On the other hand, he does not describe about the exploitations and discrimination among the population of colonies. He even does not depict the problems of that era. Beside there are many examples of rough, selfish and egotistical behavior of colonizers in his stories. But his purpose is not to point out issues or create wrong image of one side or another. At that time colonies

were considered most exciting places full of opportunities without any difficulty. These colonies are depicted as places where one can run away from one's problems. Maugham depicts colonies as he experienced. This research helps to understand that his short fiction is mainly based on individual character and his flaws. He is pessimistic observer of human manners and behavior. He neither criticizes colonies nor praises. As an author he wants to entertain his readers only and particularly to be successful (Soukup, 2010, p. 43).

Mohammad Abdullah Matarneh in his journal *Structural Evaluation of Maugham's before the Party, the Pool and Mackintosh* (2014) illustrates that Maugham's short fiction is famous among readers and considered as decorous art. It has achieved marvelous success. Maugham's short stories have three qualities in genre. It gives single suspicion, focus on crisis and make significantly controlled plot. Maugham's short fictions are inspired by real life examples and people.

This research is based on Maugham's use of genre that creates consciousness. The codes and conventions between writer and reader are like a contract known as genre. Maugham's basic skill is to create excitement in stories. He also creates an impression of unique nature by first word of his short story. In the analysis of three short stories provided by this thesis, researcher has found that Maugham's stories have the ability to generate a starting, middle and ending of the story. He creates a sense of curiosity that forces the reader to read further. It is the most successful technique used by writers of his era. According to Matarneh Maugham's stories are written in a way that's what makes it a beautiful piece of story (Matarneh, 2014, p. 82). Some writers have the ability to reveal a hidden ending which surprises the reader. Maugham is a best example of this technique. He is also an inspiring figure for new comers who want to make a new, unique and a different style of writing.

*A Study on Irony Related to Female Characters in Some Short Stories by Maugham* (2016) presents in the form of dissertation by Ngo Thanh Huyen give an illuminated ironic expression in female characters in Maugham's stories. Verbal irony is used most commonly when analyzed ironic expressions. Dramatic and verbal irony describes about character's personalities, appearances, and dialogues. It debates about the feelings and attitude of narrator toward female character. Maugham with the use of irony creates amusing female characters. Women characters are shown as gallant, vigilant and experienced. Maugham's writings are famous due to simple style, narrative devices and ironic point of view. Characters are presented as exclusively and also vibrantly. This research suggests that there are two types of irony; one is based on semantic dispersion and second is based on modern theories of expression (Huye, 2016, p. 7).

This article helps in understanding about the irony of feminine characters. Ironic characters are involved in disapprobation, refusal, mockery or disaffection. Maugham is the master of spellbinding plots. It is remarkable to note how he makes his characters joyful yet real. Readers feel that they have met characters in real life. Despite this irony makes reader a critic and give him analysis of the situation. He engages the characters which is the main skill of his writings. It also indicates that irony works positively or negatively depends on people's taste, habits, point of view or education (Huye, 2016, p. 14-15).

Francesca Massarenti in her thesis *The Creative Impulse; Narrator as Device in W. Somerset Maugham's Short Stories* (2016) explicates that Maugham's texts are unassuming and understandable. Texts keep amusing the reader and give priority to delight. He gives favor to linear, chronological patterns, unadorned syntax and a plain language. These characteristics do not entail that narrative flow in his stories are unconstrained and clear. The strategies and devices that are used in Maugham's stories have maneuvering narrative voices and view point that affects the plot and characterizations of text. Maugham stories have a sort of persistent quality. However, stories can be summed up easily and their endings are sharp and terse. His literary world appears to be a logical one. Stories contain a confident superiority that justifies the rule and utilization of remote land (Massarenti, 2016, p. 20). There is an old fashioned style in Maugham's prose that is responsible for modern-day appeal. In his texts there is only left postcard like token of past. Modern style has faded. He is interested in seriousness however lessen its impact through human comedy. By reading this research, it is evident that besides his seriousness in stories he is also inspired by unsettling endings. Examples that cut off the narrative flow hinder unequivocal elucidation that indeed is the major factor to determine Maugham's short fiction as most challenging but gratifying discipline (Massarenti, 2016, p. 97).

Another research made by Prof. Kamal K Roy *A New Perspective; W. Somerset Maugham: The man and the writer* (2017) demonstrated that Maugham is philosophical novelist. His writings are substitute for rejected Christianity. His work is like a pilgrimage for aspiration. His career is based on a long expedition of materialism, idealism, naturalism, mysticism and aestheticism. He is an artist with bundle of qualities. In his youth he had intellectual sensitivity which draws upon him fresh

ideas. After the death of his mother he faced trauma which he depicts amply in his "Original Wound". His life and art is deeply affected by his interest in homosexuality. First it forces Maugham to become restrained and enigmatic. Second, his homosexuality takes his theory of art to evil and mysticism (Roy, 2017, p. 12). His inside creativity is inevitable force that turns him dead outside of his art. Merciless is that nothing can stand between his art and work. With the help of this research it will be easy for critics to understand that Maugham continuously being misunderstood and underestimated. Beside this after his death he is still receiving the deserts for his writing. His twofold strategy helped researcher to determine his strength which hides weakness of his writings. His greatness may be pondered but not his seriousness. He recognized himself as playful and serious at the same time (Roy, 2017, p. 25).

Don Adams explicates in his article "*Somerset Maugham's Ethically Earnest fiction*" (2019) that Maugham is the earliest figure of twentieth century literature who first introduced a concept of self-acceptance. The first yield of Maugham's artistic and psychological flourishment was based on his travels. The novel "The Moon and the Sixpence" (1919) was his first novel which gave him remarkable success. He constructs theme of self-identification and opposed to moral restrictions. Maugham's narrative technique is very famous as it engages the readers and give them pleasure.

His disputation about value of art lies in ethical value. Ethical value is used to teach men humility, tolerance, wisdom and nobility. He is considered as an ethical writer and his work contains the parameters for favor of self- acceptance. It speaks out for suppression (Adams, 2019, p.61). But Maugham had misfortune or good fortune for being an ethical writer of this age.

These are some different people discussing Maugham's short stories in a different way. But the focus of this research is to present Philosophy of art closely linked with the study of beauty and taste. It is a concept in which art is interpreted and evaluated from individual works. We experience an interesting and puzzling dominion from which we perceive beauty. The dominance of beauty and ugliness are engaged. If we are mistaken in these realms, we will have to release such ideas of beauty and taste. Aestheticism not only deals with the nature of art but also with the objects that determine beauty and ugliness. Baumgarten's review of aesthetics is a key moment in the development of aesthetic philosophy. It is always meant "sensation" which is perceived by taste or beauty. He defined taste as the ability to arbitrate beauty on the basis of senses rather than intellect. Feeling of pleasure or displeasure related to arbitration of beauty (Tolstoy, 1904, p.17

Baumgarten illustrates the idea of ugly and beautiful, good or bad taste. He generates the philosophical debate which gives a new meaning to aesthetics. It is responsiveness to stimulation of these senses (1750). He advances the study of both disciplines and set them off from philosophy. His theory focuses on importance of feelings and gives much attention to creative act. According to him it is important to transform the traditional claim that "art imitates nature". The creative process of the world is related with its own experiences of senses (Tolstoy, 1904, p.18).

Immanuel Kant (1763) took this term of aesthetics and applied to the whole sensory experiences. Later this term was restricted to beauty and the nature of arts. He claimed that pronouncement of taste is subjective and universal. Taste is subjective as it gives pleasure and do not involve in objects itself. Whereas it is universal in a sense that judgments are not merely personal. His main interest was not in art but in beauty. According to him work of art has purpose in mind to display a type of free play of forms. He did not include properties of objects like colors. In his view color is just a kind of decoration but Composition that's what matter. "A judgment of taste which is uninfluenced by charm or emotion, and whose determining ground, therefore, is simply finality of form, is a pure judgment of taste" (Tolstoy, *What is Art*, p. 20).

Kant divided types of aesthetics into beautiful and sublime. One presents the pleasure, harmony and delicacy. Other presents the trepidation of infinite or devastating. Beautiful present the forms while sublime appears as formless. Kant believes that he can show a relation between moral judgment and aesthetic judgment. According to him the judgment about beautiful always has distinguishing features that what is pleasurable rather than judging it beautiful. Kant analyzes the experience of beauty to ask about the judgment of beautiful (Tolstoy, 1904, p. 20, para.5). He expounds in his theory that aesthetics has many weird features which can be controversial so the judgment of aesthetic is something strange. Common sense is a prior principle of taste that determines the feeling of beautiful. Natural experience can be possible through common sense which is probably identical or same as ordinary intellect. He admires Baumgarten's aesthetic sense and holds it as natural experience which leads to determine verdict without cognitive measurement (Tolstoy, 1904, p. 21).

George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel was highly influenced by Kant's aestheticism. Hegel's philosophy of art has a range in which he describes about art and its historical development. He also described the art of an individual's sculpture, painting, architecture, music and poetry. His philosophy of aesthetic is related to philosophy of spirit. Philosophy of spirit deviates

from the concept of beauty, its various forms and various individual's art. According to him beauty is not only formal harmony or delicacy in fact it is a sensuous expression of color, figure, echo or words. The task of art is to present the beauty as a matter of content like form. This form can take a different form in individual arts. He is well aware that art can be ornamental, can promote economic or political goals and can explore the depth of human isolation. He explores that art have some distinguishing features that can give a sense of aesthetic without giving beauty (Tolstoy, 1904, p. 21, para.3).

Hegel delivered lectures that were devoted to aesthetics. In his first lecture he defines aesthetic as science of sensations that becomes a new philosophical discipline. Work of art is treated as feeling of pleasure, admiration, fear, anger, pity and so on because of dissatisfaction (Hegel, vol.1). Second lecture describes it is not the sense in which aestheticism can be limited to beauty of art. He talks about the beauty of spirit in relation to beauty of art and its production stands with nature. Spirit and its artistic beauty stands higher than natural beauty and this higher quality is unclear expression. This vague expression defines nature and artistic beauty differently in imagination.

Hegel claims that art is progressive. Art expresses the individual's art and spirit of different cultures of art. He described three stages of aesthetics. A powerful idea is expressed in variety of forms in symbolic stage. Classical stage identifies human idealized forms without any sense of alteration. Third stage, romantic art stresses on idea that depends upon images and emphasizes inquisitiveness.

Friedrich Schiller was a phenomenal poet who took Kant's aesthetic term into a broader sense. He follows Kant's processes of transcendental deduction to find out the objectives of beauty. He asks a question that how mental knack can reveal our sense of beauty. He defines two forms of reason that human beings should possess; one is theoretical and other is practical. Theoretical concepts are representation of expanded knowledge while practical concepts are presented in order to act with the help of will. When practical reasoning is applied to beauty it becomes freedom in appearances. Schiller discusses two qualities by which we consider what is beautiful. First is being determined through things itself. It means beauty can be sensed through object itself and is not judged by outside forces. Then he moves toward second quality that beauty is affected by nature itself which is light and have no movements (Tolstoy, 1904, p. 21, para.1).

Highest beauty cannot be distinguished by self-determination. Schiller articulates when we call something beautiful it means it has self-determination that comes out from actor's essence. He does not consider presumption of beauty as success because freedom in appearance is also not clear. He has associated aesthetics to moral aspects and considered aesthetic judgment is based on practical rather than theoretical. He extends this claim that aesthetic judgments are like moral judgment, a product of practical reason. Moral laws are followed by moral actions that are self-determining. Schiller calls a person with grace a "beautiful soul". A beautiful soul carries out most exciting works for humankind. It can obey a reason with fun and not consider it burden. "It is in a beautiful soul that sensuousness and reason, duty and inclination are in harmony, and grace is their expressions as appearance" (Tolstoy, 1904, p. 21, para.3). The quality of beauty can be determined by object itself and not determined by outside.

Schiller follows philosophical considerations with advice to isolate to conditions of pleasure. He also divided sublime into practical and theoretical. The practical sublime considers nature as an emotion particularly fear or danger. While theoretical sublime presents nature as a body of knowledge and indicates that we can think more than we know. That pleasure may be produced by the strong emotions (Tolstoy, 1904, p. 21, para.4). This research is based on the theory of aestheticism. The theory of aestheticism by Francis Hutcheson illustrates that essence of art is based on multiplicity and we are guided by our five senses to perceive what is beautiful. Hutcheson in his *An inquiry into the originals of our ideas of beauty and virtue* (1725) considers that beauty is supreme purpose of the art. Art holds multiplicity that displays harmony. By the help of inner five senses someone can perceive beauty. According to Hutcheson if someone wanting to perceive beauty but has not the definite sense, the want can be fulfilled by some dedication of figure like smoothness of vocalization which can become graspable by other senses. In Hutcheson's opinion aesthetic sense is different from fixed patterns of moral behavior.

The deep analysis of the work of different critics researcher has come to know about the very wide view of Maugham's inspiration for aesthetics. Researcher has got the idea of narrative device. She observed the complex relation between men and women. Maugham was the one who tried to change the typical relation of men and women. Women had no special status in British society. Women were considered as a part of amusement. Maugham represented their character as irony. Men had got all the advantages, they were dominant and rule over women Maugham is the one who tries to change the typical relation of men and women. Women carried no special status in British society. Women were considered as a source



of amusement. Researcher has found different opinions of aestheticism from Leo Tolstoy's book *What is art* (1995). Emotions are the important part of aestheticism which is called as "moral sense" which affects the character of liking and actions that are appreciative to those who are virtuous and critical to those who are vicious. Early aesthetics are the earliest modern writer of aestheticism and maintained that human beings are endowed with a unique sense by which they perceive beauty, concord and proportion. The correlation between beauty and virtue is prominent in the reviews of these aesthetics that have been discussed in Tolstoy's book. They apply a principle of association to describe ideas of beauty and set some limits to its application, insisting on there being a natural power of perception or sense of beauty in objects, antecedent to all customs, education or example.

### Argument Structure

Claim 1: Beauty is a concept that is present in mind. Beauty does not exist directly in objects. Similarly, ugliness also does not exist in mind of a person.

Reason 1: sensations play an important role to perceive what is beautiful or ugly. If an object or anything is not present in reality one might consider it beautiful. When an object is presented to someone, his perception of beauty might be change.

Evidence:

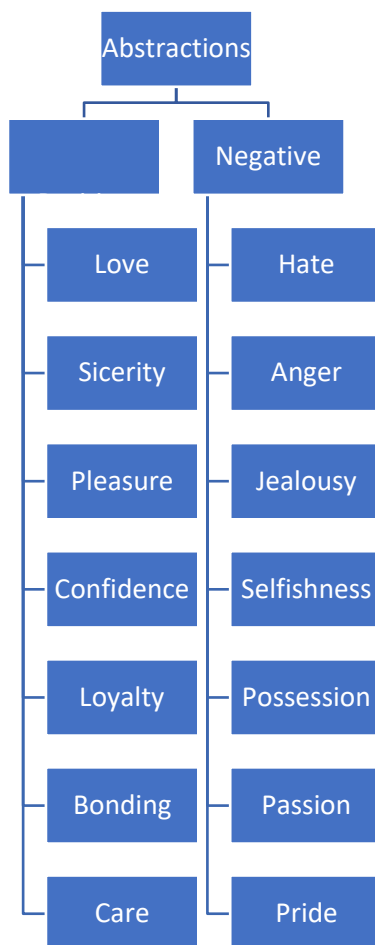
- Immanuel Kant (1763) took the term aesthetics and applied to sensational experience.
- According to him work of art has purpose in it to reveal different forms of beauty.
- He did not consider colors to determine beauty but consider composition (Kant, 1763).

Claim 2: Negative ideas also contain an element of beauty. Anger or possessiveness is related to positive feelings.

Reason 2: Beauty is basically a matter of perception. It can be said that negative ideas also have beauty. If someone does not want his loved ones to face problems or difficulty, he might be angry and his anger is preventing them to do so. Behind this anger there is love or care they have for them.

Evidence:

- Friedrich Schiller considers beauty as self-acceptance. When a person called something beautiful it means it has self-determination.
- He associated beauty with moral sense. A person can only explore beauty from negatives abstraction when he has moral judgment.
- Beauty can be judge through senses and not by outside factors.



### Positive Abstractions

In this portion, researcher has discussed Abstract terms that refers to ideas or thoughts without concrete shape, capable of being imagined but not seen, heard, smelt or touched. These ideas need to be conceptualized as they cannot be adorned by real instances. It means they have no substantial representation for example beauty is an abstract idea that lies in someone's mind that do not have physical appearance and it vary from person to person. These ideas include jealousy, anger, sadness, love, care, confidence and so on. These abstract ideas do not have any boundary, identity and clear denotation. These ideas are attached to our philosophical and emotional approaches. David Kelly in his "A Theory of Abstraction" illustrated that these ideas come from the process of thinking and derive a concept from the perception of similarities (Kelly, 1984, p. 06).

It is hard to understand conceptual ideas though it can be understood through serious thinking. Abstract ideas are found in figure of speech, in emotions and in self-absorption. Philosophers are interested in abstract ideas and relate it with afferent experiences. Jennifer Wilber explicated in her journal "An introduction to Plato's theory of forms" that Plato argued conceptual ideas are primary subject to be studied in philosophy and metaphysics. Plato's most demanding theory of forms (sometimes called theory of ideas) in which he argued that non-physical ideas represent the most perfect reality. According to him every idea has its form in reality and these ideas are the essence of various objects (Wilber, 2018).

Francis Hutcheson in his "origins of our ideas of beauty and virtue" considers that beauty is supreme aim of the art and this art contains in displaying of unity within multiplicity. For him the perception of what is beautiful can be determined by internal five senses. According to Hutcheson someone who has desire for beauty but has not the sense of sight, the desire can be raised by some other element like softness or sweetness of voice which can perceivable by other senses. In Hutcheson opinion aesthetic sense is different from fixed patterns of ethical behavior (Hutcheson, 1725).

The researcher has analyzed these abstract ideas that have found in the two short stories by William Somerset Maugham.

#### LOVE

The first supreme abstract idea is love that is surrounded by a powerful and positive range of emotional and mental states of the deepest interpersonal endearment and to simple pleasure. This love indicates different meanings from the love of the mother to the love of spouse that is also different from the love of the friend or food. Love is strong affection and considered as a virtue of human kindness and goodwill as presented in the short story by W. Somerset Maugham *Princess September* i.e. "one day September, the most vivacious of the nine princesses, suffered a heart break when she found her lovely parrot lying dead inside her cage" (Maugham, 1939, p.2). In this story love is shown as the ultimate sense that characters adore. Love is true warmth that can be seen when princess found a new singing bird and she associated her all love to bird i.e. "At this juncture, she found a small bird intruding to her chamber through the window. The princess was taken aback to see the visitor. She sat up on the bed with a sense of bewilderment and joy" (Maugham, 1939, p. 2, para.2). The center of life revolving around that person whom you love with all the depth of the heart and thought of losing that person can take breath away. In story there is unlimited love between princess and bird but it is a truth that where there is a love, there is also suffering which leads someone to the paramount not to face it. Despite this fact, in this story princess suffered a lot and made her parrot suffer too but it can also be seen that love took them away from that suffering. Princess released him because the bird was sad and when he became free he was too much happy and to make your loved one happy this is what we called love i.e. "she opened the cage door and brought the bird out to keep it on the window's sill" (Maugham, 1939, p. 6). The real feeling of love that can be seen when parrot after releasing from prison came back to princess and sang melodious songs. Through love the characters are shown in the text as pleasing, cheerful and more progressing. The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves.

Love means to stand with the loved ones and not let them alone in any state and keep standing with them whatever the circumstances. The one thing we can never get enough of is love. In Maugham's *The Three fat women of Antibes* love is unconditional and the designation of the highest rank in someone's life. It is not important to be perfect for love but it is something that can feel with sensory experience. In this story, love is displayed as the major element in the lives of three women that they cannot even live without each other because there were a lot in their lives that they were not satisfied with but love is only thing that made their lives easy somehow. A loving heart is the truest wisdom. The sense of love is very powerful but cannot be defined easily. Love is a choice as in the story three women chose to live with each other and left other things behind because they had a common case. It is because of their love that they understand feelings of each one. i.e. the friendship between Frank, Beatrice and Arrow.

"It was their fat that had brought them together and bridge that had cemented their alliance. They had met first at Carlsbad, where they were staying at the same hotel and were treated by the same doctor who used them with the same ruthlessness" (Maugham, 1933, p. 1, 2).

Due to misapprehension they fought but later on, they realized their own wrong deeds and apologized in couple of tears, "she threw herself on her knees and enveloped what she could of Frank in her own plump arms. She wept and the mascara ran down her cheeks" (Maugham, 1933, p.5). This is something that happened with the power of love and put them together again. Researcher believed in the compelling power of love. She does not understand it. She just believe it to be the most fragrant blossom of all this thorny existence.

#### CARE

Loving someone is not as much important as to think about someone's emotions, doing best for someone to make him happy and wishing something best for that person you care the most. Caring is an abstract thought that present in your mind and you become well wisher for someone. Nothing can wear you out like caring about people. In Maugham's *Princess September* there is a load of caring between the two characters i.e. princess and singing bird. Princess made bird eat in her palm and bird sang beautiful songs for princess to sleep songs and sat down along her side all the night i.e.

"The sweet voice of the little bird lifted the sad princess's spirits. The bird sang in praise of the palace garden, the nearby lake and the goldfish in the waters. She was so delighted that she forgot all her woes, and was back to her normal jovial mood" (Maugham, 1939, p. 3).

This made princess more beautiful because she got too much care. Being caring is the greatest ability to understand the feelings of other person as princess came to know that birds was not happy in the cage so she decided to free her.

Falling in love is easy but carrying the relationship with care is precious. Without it no relation can go longer. The really important kind of freedom involves attention, effort, and being truly to care about other people and to sacrifice for them. This is the case with the characters of Maugham's *The three fat women of Antibes* in which major characters care each other and understand the feeling or we can say that they have ability to read minds of each other that what's going on in their minds. When you love someone you care him/her and his/her happiness is more important than yourself. In story *The three fat women of Antibes* the two of fat women keep praising third one despite the fact that she is as fat as sheep's tail i.e.

"They were good natured women and they chaffed her pleasantly about her beaux; they had both given up the thought of that kind of nonsense, indeed Miss Hickson had never given it a moment's consideration, but they were sympathetic to her flirtations" (Maugham, 1933, p. 1).

The most important thing of a relation is to care your loved ones. When Beatrice was eating madly, it made Frank cried because she did not want her friend to pour ice on all the struggles she did to become slim, only in annoyance i.e. "She felt on a sudden at peace with mankind, and then stopped dead still. She could not believe her eyes. Beatrice was sitting at one of the tables, by herself; Beatrice, what are you doing? She cried in her deep voice" (Maugham, 1933, p. 11). To prevent someone from doing wrong is also care. It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in our selves.

#### PLEASURE

The major character of *Princess September* experience pleasure as being positive, enjoyable and worth seeking including specific mental states like happiness, ecstasy and entertainment when bird sang a song. To avoid pain that caused by past, new singing bird pleased her, this pleasure is subjective in story i.e.

"September became worried too pondering the warning given by her sisters. When she was immersed in these foreboding thoughts. She suddenly thought a tweet-tweet sound. The sweet little bird had sneaked in quietly. September's joy knew no bounds (Maugham, 1939, p.4).

Pleasure may differ from person to person and quantity may also be different but this pleasure is linked with our satisfaction. In Freud's psychoanalytic theory (1890) pleasure is considered as the driving force to have gratification of needs. When bird sang beautiful songs it made her and princess happy, something that pleased both in a way that they forgot other world.

In other words pleasure is a name of satisfaction that someone seeks for. In diving to the bottom of pleasure we bring up more gravel than pearls. *The three women of Antibes* reflects this idea when they had amazing foodstuff which pleased them and took them into a world of fancy where only food is valuable like a treasure i.e. "They spread the cream on the plate and they ate it. They devoured great spoonfuls of jam. What was love to Arrow then? They ate with solemn, ecstatic fervor" (Maugham, 1933, p. 13).

Having pleasure is bewildering. According to one school of thought, quest of pleasure is primary goal of human beings. In *The three fat women of Antibes* high importance has been given to pleasure where nothing else matter than food. Gratification can be seen when they had each other's company and played a bridge game. It manifests that pleasure is strong idea in the minds of characters. John D. Rockefeller quoted "I can think of nothing less pleasurable than a life devoted to pleasure".

#### CONFIDENCE

Self confidence increases the ability, judgment and power. This confidence increases from experiences of having mastered in special activity. Confidence for success is important thing. It makes a person more attractive. In *Princess September* singing bird sang fresh round of singing. Maids of honor mesmerized by her sweet voice "To the great astonishment of all, she sang a different song for each of the eight sisters. Her singing talent was unparalleled" (Maugham, 1939, p. 03). It gave more confidence to bird to sing more amazingly. Self-assurance is acquired by someone to get something for special purpose. Confidence is to have faith in yourself and accepted by others. When king and queen visited princess and listened to the bird's sugary voice. They admired the bird and princess too. This is the time when bird felt more assurance about her worth. It is a belief that self confidence comes from self-spirit. It is the ability to safeguard and the quintessence that keep you going on i.e. "princess asserted that her new bird had a golden voice, and its company more than made up for the dead parrot" (Maugham, 1939, p. 4). Confidence has its own ability to determine its identity. This Confidence is something to achieve dreams and never give up.

Belief in powers and reliability are abilities that lead to success. Maugham's *The three fat women of Antibes* reflects this idea somehow but they did not succeed in their aim, still they had confidence. "They saw for Arrow a man of about fifty, but well preserved and of distinguished carriage, an admiral on the retired list and a good golfer, or a widower without encumbrances, but in any case with a substantial income" (Maugham, 1933, p. 1). But these were the ideas of other two women. Arrow thought different "her fancy turned to a dark slim Italian with flashing eyes and a sonorous title or to a Spanish don of noble lineage; and not a day more than thirty (1933, p. 1). When you are confident it means you are at peace. You have no regret of being awkward, loud and out spoken. It is fulfillment of oneself. Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.

Self-trust is a mental approach that you have a picture of yourself both as physical and as an individual. The positive things come out from thinking that you are important. This was the case with Arrow and made her pompous enough. Lena another character with self-assurance thought of herself as the most perfect woman i.e. when Frank tried to bring shame on Lena "we find alcohol isn't very good in all this heat, said Frank. Oh it never affects me at all, Lena answered airily, I like cocktails" (Maugham, 1933, p. 5). This is height of self-reliance attained by Lena.

#### BONDING OF RELATIONS

Whenever people spend time together, they may form a bond. Same is the case when someone keeps an animal or bird bonding occurs. It is the process of growth of interpersonal relationship between the two or more people. Bonding is different from simple liking. It is in fact a mutual interactive procedure. The bond that links your true family is not one of the blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life. Affiliation is characterized by emotions, feelings, affection and trust. i.e. in *Princess September* affiliation between September and bird can feel. "To the inquisitive princess the bird said how she had begged leave of his father-in-law's party and rushed back to her. Her concern for September was palpable in his face" (Maugham, 1939, p. 5).

Relationships are difficult. They can be amazing and rewarding, but they also require a bond to maintain a relationship. It can maintain through key behaviors like communication, understanding and faith i.e. in story "The parting was heart rending for September, but she bore it with grace and fortitude. In the bird's happiness lay her happiness, she reasoned" (Maugham, 1939, p. 6). A strong feeling of friendship, love or shared beliefs that associates them is known as bonding. It is strategic and meaningful attachment to others. These close relationships have different worth and presents different investments of time, energy, loyalty and devotion.

*The three fat women of Antibes* manifest this idea of bonding of relations when Frank and Arrow have an argument due to misunderstanding. Later on they resolve the issue.

"They kissed each other warmly and separated for the night feeling strangely uplifted. Nothing should interfere with the wonderful friendship that had brought so much happiness into their three lives" (Maugham, 1933, p. 9).

In order to create loving and lasting relation strong bonding is important between individuals. Everyone knows that in a relation there must be ups and downs. There is sunshine sometime and rains too. So it depends how strong bonding you have to overcome the false situations. Feelings and sensation control bonding speculations.

#### SINCERITY

Sincerity is an amalgamation of seriousness, care and honesty. It is a quality everyone wishes for. A person who is sincere will show truthfulness and kindness. To share everything and believe in someone is sincerity. It is required between individuals who are in relation to make it work. People communicate through their feelings, emotions, thoughts and desires, in which sincerity has a great part. A person must be straightforward towards everything. Straightforward means here is to say about things without deceit and misinterpreting. Being sincere means everyone should understand the feelings of other. There is always a question about deep feelings. Answering these questions in a way that it must be unchanging, deep and inclusive. It is closely related to care that how much a person thinks about others. Sincerity and truth are the basis of every virtue. Nobody can make a respected relation without sincerity. It is all about how much someone has empathy. Without empathy no one can sincerely use feelings instead he will manipulate. Sincerity gives wings and worth to relations.

Maugham's short story *Princess September* manifests that sincerity is most significance element in any relation and without it relation is vacant. Ralph Waldo Emerson says sincerity is the highest Complement you can pay. This is most amazing feeling someone celebrate as an imaginative and shared idea. For instance, "king had a habit that was quite unusual. On his birthday, he gave away gifts to those who came to felicitate him" (Maugham, 1939, p.2). This amazing element can be seen

in the following instance, “the bird was lovingly accommodated in the princess’s chamber. It sang its beautiful hostess to sleep with her charming songs. When she got up the next morning, the tiny bird was still there at her bed side” (Maugham, 1939, p. 3). Sincerity is something desirable state between the two individuals in order to decrease the self-deprecation.

Sincerity has a clear connection with happiness and truth. The ultimate goal of any relation is genuineness. Shirely Glass discussed in her book “Just Friends” (2002) that relations are based on faith and honesty. These relations are maintained through truthfulness. *The three fat women of Antibes* illustrated when “Beatrice’s soft heart went out to the Ioran widow, and Arrow, seeing that she was pale, quite ordinary to look at and probably forty-eight, was prepared to like her very much” (Maugham, 1939, p. 5). According to George Bernard Shaw “it is dangerous to be sincere unless you are also stupid”. It means being sincere is sometimes harmful. It can damage your other relations. For instance, when Frank invited her cousin’s widow just to change her mind. She recognized that it is a big mistake.

“During the evening they had been furiously cheerful, and they had chaffed one another with a friendliness that would have taken in the keenest observer. But they dropped the mask. Beatrice was sullen, Arrow was spiteful and Frank was unmanned” (p. 8).

Sincerity has suffered a lot in this situation. It goes far beyond being a nice distinctiveness. It is a desire which is deep inside and need to be real.

#### LOYALTY

Within the hearts of men, loyalty and consideration are esteemed greater than success. A person has loyalty in nature and it is basically a need. A person without loyalty is impossible to make relations. He must have some constancy towards a particular thing or subject. Loyal person has connection with people, time or places. Actually, it gives a sense of meaning and attains what he desire. Through faithfulness a person’s identity can be determined. His ideas and beliefs are associated with his constancy. It is good to say that loyalty is allegiance with other person. Stability of any relation is based on loyalty for long lasting. It comes from love, care, devotion, enthusiasm and obligation. It means to take side when your partner is facing difficulties. Being loyal is to reassure your presence physically or emotionally. Kind and helpful words can bring out your sincerity. It might be a sign of trust. Loyalty is the strongest glue which makes a relationship last long. A person in relationship should avoid not speaking about your partner or friends to others. The needs of associates should primary and prior for each other. Being loyal is a personal decision.

Maugham’s *Princess September* illustrates this loyalty when princess releases bird from cage. Bird shows her faithfulness to princess and came back to see her daily. “The bird, however, returned to prove the eight sisters wrong and redeem his loyalty to September. He lovingly sat on her shoulder, ate from her hand, and sang one of the most melodious songs” (Maugham, 1939, p. 6).

That’s all depend upon choices a person makes, as bird chose to visit princess after redemption. Being faithful means to recognize that all human beings are flawed and makes mistakes. It must have patience to deal with problems. It also suggests that constancy is keeping your words like bird does in story. To be with your associates in good or bad times is trustfulness.

It can be said that for success loyalty is very important. It means that individuals must have respect for each other. They should understand weaknesses and help each other. Trustworthy means not bring shame on associates instead of it encourage them. Giving confidence is essential to any relation. For instance Maugham short story *The three fat women of Antibes* in which three friends realize each other’s weakness and encourage to use diet plan. They always stood with each other when anyone felt it tough i.e. “They were great friends, Miss Hickson, Mrs. Richman, and Arrow Sutcliff. It was their fat that had brought them together and bridge that had cemented their alliance” (Maugham, 1933, p. 1).

Loyalty is not an obligation imposed by others but adhered with someone’s own willingness. Anyone cannot make others to be loyal rather it is their affection towards partner. Faithfulness is like an umbrella that connects a lot of different ideas. Loyalty is to defend your associates even when they are wrong in front of others. It is something to present the actions of partners more positively to others in a light of favor. Where there is loyalty, weapons are of no use. In *The three fat women of Antibes* we can see loyalty in following example.

“We think saccharine so much more sweetening, said Frank, is she put a tiny tablet of it into her coffee. Disgusting stuff,

said Lena. Beatrice mouth drooped at the corners; she gave the lump of sugar a yearning look. Beatrice, boomed Frank sternly. Beatrice stifled a sigh, and reached for the saccharine" (Maugham, 1933, p. 6).

This shows how much they have loyalty and care for each other. As mentioned above loyalty is like an umbrella, here it is connecting love, care, sincerity with faithfulness. Individuals in a relation cannot be manipulative.

Hutcheson claimed that beauty does not exist in objects directly rather absolute beauty is present in minds. Original beauty is not understood as quality that objects has itself. It is a quality that can be determined only by pleasure someone feel. Perception of beauty is actually an experience of pleasure. He said that beauty is taste. It arises when someone have experience of pleasure.

### **Negative Abstractions**

#### **Jealousy**

Jealousy is never satisfied with anything short of an omniscience that would detect the subtlest fold of the heart. The characters of Maugham's story *Princess September*, the both main characters became the victims of jealousy when princess's elder sisters asked her to prison his bird in the cage and she did it, so that's how bird suffered from their jealousy and remained in gloom while princess left destitute. i.e. when elder sisters came and mocked her.

"To tease her, the sisters said that the bird was not caged and had a free run of the palace. She could soon fly off leaving September high and dry. The elder sisters were incredulous. They somehow wanted to derive a fear in September's mind by making her believe that the bird could have fled away for good" (Maugham, 1939, p. 4).

Jealousy is a typical feeling in human relationships in which someone is more superior to others and even it has been seen in five months infant. Due to jealousy the characters are shown vicious and confused in personality.

It is observed that jealousy or envy is seen in all cultures and that jealousy is particular emotion of a culture. In the story jealousy has found in Princesses who were considered as noble and respectful but they felt jealous even and to soften that feeling they did whatever felt best i.e. "the eight sisters came to September and sat in a circle around her. Their mood was downcast. They told her that they had saved some money to buy her a new parrot to replace the dead one" (Maugham, 1939, p. 4). Jealousy can either be dubious or insensitive, it is a strong emotion and constructed as an inclusive human encounter. People usually do not express jealousy in a single emotion or behavior instead of that they manifest jealousy through multiplicity. It is a want to feel special to the person you have relationship with. The disease of jealousy is so malignant that it converts all it takes into its own nourishment. Maugham's *The three fat women of Antibes* in which two fat women Arrow and Beatrice felt jealous to Lena the new coming character because of her figure as she ate too much but never gain a little weight i.e. "I shall have to eat it all myself then, said Lena cheerfully. Don't you ever think of your figure? Arrow asked with icy deliberation. The doctor said I must eat. Did he say you must eat bread and butter and potatoes and cream?" (Maugham, 1933, p.5). The story shows jealousy on another point when Frank gave more importance to her cousin's widow this made her friends resentful. This jealousy clearly explores the revulsion, aggression and fuming in the text between the leading characters i.e. "It's not very nice for me to sit there and see her at all the things I particularly like, said Beatrice plaintively. It is not very nice for any of us, Frank snapped back" (Maugham, 1933, p. 8).

#### **SELFISHNESS**

The text of *Princess September* manifests this abstract sense in a way that character of princess is motivated by her own self-interest that is psychological aspect. Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live; it is asking others to live as one wishes to live. This is why she only thought of herself not about bird which leads us to title it as selfishness i.e. "She vainly hoped that time would help the bird to get used to the cage. It was just wishful thinking (Maugham, 1939, p. 6). The imprisonment of bird by princess reflects that her action, behavior and decision were only made by selfishness. This sense of self-centeredness took the major character towards egotism, she never think of bird's happiness rather than focused on her own happiness. Egotism is a symbol of a lack of confidence because the character of the story thought immaturely and had a fear to lose bird. This is assumed that may be he has flaws in his character but kindness and determination might help them to find some self-confidence. In other words, due to crisis in personal confidence selfishness arises.

Characters of *The three fat women of Antibes* marked this selfishness as depression and loneliness. It also blocks the acumen and probably hurt. Selfishness as positive character in story that we have found when one was eating a lot in front of the other woman while stopping her to eat because she did not want her friend to gain more weight i.e. "You will kill

yourself, said Frank. I don't care. Mumbled Beatrice with her mouth full. You will put on pounds and pounds. Go to hell. She actually laughed in Frank's face" (Maugham, 1933, p. 12 .

Another instance of selfishness highlighted when Lena ate a large amount of cream and butter in front of other fat women without thinking of their feelings. A famous quote by Ouida exactly fits on Lena's character "Intensely selfish people are always very decided as to what they wish. They do not waste their energies in considering the good of others".

#### HATRED AND ANGER

Hatred or hate can invoke feeling of bitterness, anger, revenge, resentment and envy. As in *Princess September* elder sisters hated new singing bird that's why they wanted to capture it in the cage. They wanted to make her silent as it was praised by king i.e. "All of them advised her to be firm and not let the bird go out of the cage. They were quite terse in their warning" (Maugham, 1939, p. 5). Hatred is the madness of heart. Psychologist explores that hatred occurs when there is prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination. In this story hatred can be due to continuous name changing because princess never faced this irritating habit of king. It may be considered as discrimination which resulted in distortion.

Hatred can be short lived or long lasting may be of low intensity or high as we can see in Maugham's *The three fat women of Antibes* because the two of the major characters hated the new coming character Lena because they were facing many difficulties i.e. "they began to hate one another. And though they hated her too they could not resist confiding in her" (Maugham, 1933, p. 10). Hate can abandon human wisdom and make them evil but which hatred is manifested in the story as short-lived because they had fight and they hated each other but later on hatred had gone. Over expectations derived hatred as these characters expected too much, this can be due to love but for some time hate became evil in the story. From the deepest desires often comes the deadliest hate.

Hatred is a deep emotion which associated with temperament towards hostility. Through characters we explore that hatred can be a substitute emotion of anger because they do not want to feel pain. Three women (Beatrice, Arrow and Frank) started hating each other because Lena created misunderstanding between them and took a lot of money. Arrow and Beatrice hated Frank because she brought Lena and treating her wonderfully.

In the story anger is a secondary abstract element that characters are dealing with to cover up other susceptible feelings. Anger can be seen in text when Lena told them that doctor advised her to eat as much as she could just to push away depression so three women were annoyingly talked about her attitude and also felt nasty about her habits. Anger is short madness. Lena always exaggerated and tried to let down Frank, Arrow, Beatrice so they felt angry i.e. "Lena informed them that the doctor had recommended her to drink burgundy at luncheon and champagne at dinner. The three fat women preserved" (Maugham, 1933, p. 10, para.2).

In *Princess September* disapproving remarks of the king about her elder daughters left them annoyed so they became repulsive. Every time you get angry, you poison your own system, it can be truly seen in their characters as they became irritable and humorless morons. On the other point their anger can be seen when September refused their offer to buy a new parrot. They felt highly infuriated that how September disrespected them and gave priority to new bird. To be angry is to revenge the faults of others on ourselves, by considering this, researcher can say that the elder princesses were giving pain and torture themselves by their own.

#### POSSESSION

This idea identifies someone that he loves himself than capable of loving anyone else. Possessive means someone is afraid to lose someone. It is an external fantasy to happiness. Occupancy is something that belongs to a person. In *Princess September* the major character of September showed her possession toward the singing bird i.e. "Ominous thoughts crossed September's mind. What if the bird had stayed back, she pondered. She decided to pre-empt the bird's abandoning her by putting her firmly inside the cage" (Maugham, 1939, p. 5). This manifests that how princess's own contentment was important than the freedom of parrot. "He wanted to be out of the cage to smack the dew and the freshness of the morning air. But princess did not relent. She advised the bird to remain inside the cage. It was a beautifully crafted golden cage-a nice place to be in, the princess pleaded" (Maugham, 1939, p. 5, para.3). It appears as she owned the bird or took control over her life. There should be distinction between love and possessiveness. In love there is trust, willingness and a space given by other. To give someone comfort. But in possession there is no trust, no freedom and individuality. It's a relationship that leads to destruction.



There is a link between domineering and jealousy. Possession not only destroys relationship but also leads to self-destruction. It is related with fear, insecurity and mistrust as shown in *The three fat women of Antibes* "You should never have asked her here, said Arrow. How was I to know? Cried Beatrice" (Maugham, 1933, p. 8). This is apparent that Frank, Arrow, Beatrice were feeling possessive toward each other and not liking Lena's presence. Because her presence created gap between them. i.e. Beatrice, Frank and Arrow had always long conversation but Lena's interference destroyed everything.

"They had always been fond of talking over their hands, but their discussion had been friendly. Now a distinct bitterness crept in and sometimes on pointed out a mistake to another with quite unnecessary frankness. Discussion turned to argument and argument to altercation" (Maugham, 1933, p. 10).

This is clearly seen in the reference that sometimes possessive people suffer a lot. In anger and jealousy they attack over their partners. This type of negative behavior is painful for both partners. They expect a lot from their partner and do not let them in comfort. Possessiveness destroys love. And they should not be possessed, because that again destroys your love.

It is interpreted as an omen of love but when it becomes negative and unrelenting cracks begin to appear. Every relationship wants some freedom and space despite this fact how deep and intensity it has. It becomes a relationship which has doomed to failure. You need someone because he fulfills you in some way and you feel incomplete without them.

#### PRIDE

It is a sense of being proud on one's value and dignifies its significance. A person never be remembered for worth achievements if he does not have a positive pride. If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride- and never quit, you will be a winner. A proud person acts like self-congratulation which enhances his beauty, confidence and self -esteem. Pride usually gives two meanings negative and positive. In Maugham's short stories *Princess September* and *The three fat women of Antibes* are showing different meanings of pride. In positive connotation pride gives a sense of humbleness. It is a sense of affection toward one's own achievements or others. In negative connotation it is a root of all immoralities. It refers to foolishness in character or a crooked sense of one's personal assessment. Pride is sometimes connected with love and happiness. But sometimes it is associated with jealousy. It might be due to superiority complex and a low defined disagreement.

The positive sense of pride can be seen in the character of princess (main character of *Princess September*) she felt proud when her bird sings a beautiful song in front of her family. Bird also feels proud as everybody admire him i.e. "It's sweet voice enthralled the Maids of Honor. Princess September was clearly elated and proud of new possession" (Maugham, 1939, p. 3). According to St. Augustine "Pride is one's own excellence". It is a pleasant emotion that results from a positive self-analysis. Pride and temperance define a truth about person's mental state. Pride erects a little kingdom of its own, and acts as sovereign in it. Another example of pride can be seen in following. "To the great astonishment of all, she sang a different song for each of the eight sisters. Finally, the duo went to the king and queen. The royal couple was really impressed"(Maugham, 1939, p. 3). If a person is proud in positive way that he does not disgrace others than he is unique. Pride is like a crown of virtues which is invisible and makes them greater. Virtue cleans your heart and belongings to others. It can also make a person more creative and successful. If you see anything in yourself which may makes you proud, look a little further, and you will find enough to make you humble. Proud person can encourage others and employs some rules to become better people. It pushes a person to perform best.

While negative side of pride is arrogant attitude toward others. It is defined as one who has overly high opinion about himself. A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you. It destroys everything in its path even destroy relations. It is considered as one of the most seven deadly sins. Maugham's *The Three Fat Women of Antibes* reflects this negative aspect of pride i.e.

"I adore bread and butter, don't you? Said Lena, turning to Beatrice. Beatrice gave a sickly smile and evasive reply. We eat very simple here, said Frank. I hope you won't mind. Oh. No, I like my food quite very plain, said Lena as she took some butter and spread it over her fish. As long as I can have bread and butter and potatoes and cream, I'm quite happy" (Maugham, 1933, p. 6).

It makes you to say lie and cheat. A proud person can provoke the feeling of embarrassment in others. With pride, there are many curses. With humility, there come many blessings. They see everything as their own accomplishments. Someone who is proud can only think of himself. For instance:

“How very kind of you, said Frank, but we never eat cream. In this climate it makes one so bilious. I shall have to eat it all myself then, said Lena. You will get simply enormous, said Beatrice. No, I shan’t. You see, nothing ever makes me fat.

I’ve always eaten everything I wanted to and it’s never had the slightest effect on me” (Maugham, 1933, p. 7, 8).

This example manifests that how Lena is feeling proud about her figure and constantly teasing these fat women. Lena is actually satisfying her deeds which are never accomplished. Proud people breed sad sorrows for themselves. It is very ignorant to mix pride with power. There are many people who are the victim of this poisonous emotion than poison itself.

#### PASSION

It is a concept of subjectivity but for others like Hegel, Schelling, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche it is a central concept. It deals with the intensity towards anything. They regarded it as emancipation. For other philosophers like Kant passion is a disease of soul. It is in fact a persuasive wish for something or someone or it might be eagerness. Passion has a wide range from zeal interest for objects, person, food and reason to strong attraction towards an activity or individual. This term is usually used in the context of sexual desire or for romance. But researcher is using this term in the context of two short stories of Maugham. It is said to be a desire which leads towards a sensation of pleasure. From the perspective of researcher passion has some categories i.e. pleasure through senses, pleasure of mind, and pleasure in happiness of others. Professor Robert J Vallerand gave the two concepts about passion. One is that a person has love for something and it is controllable. Second is when person involved in an activity has no control over him (Vallerand, 2008). Passion is melodious and a strong emotion under the control of person.

*The Princess September* shows a passion which is controllable by presenting the character of princess. Bliss is obtained through enthusiasm which leads a person to continue his particular activity. A person can attain his pleasure when he freely connected with passion. It can be seen in story i.e. “September took the excuse of the predator palace cats, and assured the bird that his safety was uppermost in her mind in engaging him” (Maugham, 1939, p. 5). In this example she is passionate about bird and do not let the bird out from cage. Being passionate means when someone has interest in an object more than anything. This is the case with princess in story. Enthusiasm is defined as a desire to do something which he likes. “Nothing great has done great in the world without passion” (Hegel, 1837). Search for happiness is knotted with passion of life.

Maugham’s *The three fat women of Antibes* reflects passion as uncontrollable activity towards something. It has negative effects and results might not be favorable. Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca used a term “Duende” which means a deep passion (Lorca, 1998) that imagination and motivation take us towards enthusiasm i.e.

“In front of Beatrice was a plate of croissants and a plate of butter, a pot of strawberry jam, coffee and a jug of cream. Beatrice was spreading butter thick on the delicious hot bread, covering this with jam, and then pouring the thick cream overall” (Maugham, 1933, p. 11).

This example manifests that how fat woman is so passionate about foodstuff. She has no concern with anything else. Despite this fact that she is so fat and she is eating like mad. Kay Redfield Jamison in her book *Exuberance: The Passion for Life* explicated that passion of life has very few words but it obliges a person to stay in imagination far from reality. She discussed about Muir passion of life “He understood nature, felt nature, and then illuminated it to those who did not” (Jamison, 2003, p. 17). So it is understood that passion is all about what you desire for or may be obsession towards a specific thing.

David Hume discussed about passion “the passion is a violent emotion of the mind and sensitive to the appearance of a good or bad, or object which, owing to the original constitution of our faculties, is fit excite an appetite” (Hume, 1738). In religious view passion is something that a person should restrain himself. It is expressive and primeval like lust, anger, aggression or jealousy. Roberto Mangabeira Unger illustrates that passion disconnects a person from real nature of human. It gives a sense of formlessness. Unger rejects the claim that passions are reasons that associate a person with expressions (Unger, 1986).

The both chapters of analysis can be concluded that beauty is present in perception. Beauty does not only exist externally but also exist internally. These internal feelings have positive and negative dimensions. Negative ideas can give the sense of beauty. This beauty is only perceived by senses. It is understandable that idea of beauty can also come from ugliness or some negative concept.

Abstract terms that refers to ideas or thoughts without concrete shape, capable of being imagined but not seen, heard, smelt or touched. These ideas need to be conceptualized as they cannot be adorned by real instances. It means they have no substantial representation for example beauty is an abstract idea that lies in someone's mind that do not have physical appearance and it vary from person to person.

According to Hutcheson humans have a diversity of external as well as internal senses in which some are impulse and some are direct. Sense can be defined as any determination of our minds to receive ideas independently on our will and to have perceptions of pleasure and pain. Beauty, taste, pleasure and imagination was recognized under the title of aesthetics. Due to the attention toward human nature, taste and morals can be established. Something naturally pleases us because our sentiments are organized and contributing to beauty.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

Researcher has discussed about beauty that is present in our mind. Beauty is linked with many aspects like physical appearance of object, sensuality or evenness. The concept of beauty is different in opinion. This is based on combination of internal and external beauty. Internal beauty is difficult to enumerate. Positive ideas contain a factor of beauty. But in this assertion researcher has also found beauty in negative ideas. According to the researcher, if someone look at the bad side of some negative idea we can explore some good behind that idea. It depends on our way of thinking about something; some people explore negativity in many good things.

Beauty is not in skin deep. Beauty and ugliness, good or bad just exist in mind. If a person considers an object beautiful, it is his perception. It is same with the ugliness. These are concepts which are taken from perception. It is used to be said that beauty is in the eye of a person so that he can enjoy the things. But if someone does not consider an object beautiful it means he has no discernment of beauty.

In order to explore beauty in selected short stories *Princess September* and *The three fat women of Antibes* by W. Somerset Maugham, researcher has prospected positive and negative abstractions that reader can to understand the beauty in negative ideas.

### **Beauty in Positive Abstraction**

There is a beauty in love or care because it strengthens relationships. Love is like a flower that blooms in heart and makes it powerful. It widens the heart and you can achieve whatever you want. Love helps you to achieve greatness. Love is to abandon yourself makes relationship beautiful. As in the story *Princess September* and *The Three Fat women of Antibes* love, care and other positive ideas have beautify the things in relation. There is also beauty in anger and possession and jealousy. Researcher has found that anger is caused by love as shown in the stories of Somerset Maugham. Love is hidden in anger that makes a person annoyed. If someone does not love you how he is supposed to care about you? It is all related to having feelings for somebody.

The beauty in care is prominent in relation of princess and bird. Caring creates special bond between the associates. It is the one most important thing in a relation for your consequential other through good or bad times i.e. when princess felt alone bird gave her comfort with his loving presence. To avoid suffering or hardships someone finds alternative for seeking pleasure. Pleasure gives a charming effect. It may vary from one person to other. Because having pleasure is different for each person. For instance, princess had pleasure with the melodious songs of bird. Similarly, fat women had connection of pleasure with food.

Confidence is a great factor for success. It is only thing which creates a sense of beauty in character. Without confidence beauty is blurred. In every relation when people live together, they use to sit, talk, laugh and cry together. It is their bonding and without it no relation can stand longer. Sincerity is mixed feature of love, care and bonding. Sincere person is too concerned about his partner i.e. bird had a strong sense of care for princess and he came to visit her daily. It has explicit connection with happiness of life. Loyalty itself is beautiful. It builds up relations. For instance, three fat women were always loyal to each other despite the fact that they had many faults in them. It is like a motivation for your partner. It is a matter of pride that your partner trusts you and surrenders to you.

### **Beauty in Negative Abstraction**

Beauty is considered as a most durable and controversial theme. Beauty is traditionally characterized by truth, goodness and justice. According to Hume beauty does not exists in objects instead of that it exists in human mind. Each mind

perceives beauty differently. One person may see beauty only in fine-looking things but other person might see beauty in deformity. No one can impose his sentiments upon others. Beauty is a kind of pleasure that gives happiness to heart and mind.

Anger comes from love that cannot come unless you care about someone. To feel anger is impossible without love or care. Anger in love can change a relation and serve you as it serves others. Anger exists because you care. Anger is considered as a reaction to other emotions. It may be wrapping up those emotions like sadness or grief. But researcher has explored that it is a pure and perfect feeling that reveal love or care. There is a belief that anger is a negative feeling. It is an emotion that makes a person bad and unbearable. But for researcher it is not a negative idea for sure. Usually people believe that anger is a reverse of love.

Researcher has explored jealousy is beautiful. Reciters of this assertion must be thinking that how beauty exist in jealousy. It is a belief that there is no beauty in jealousy. It is because you do not like to see someone receiving awards or high grades. Everyone in life feels jealous of other person at some point in life. It simply hurts you and destroys your mind. You are jealous with another person because you do not think about your potential. You are always comparing yourself with others and not owning up those qualities you have. And probably with person you are jealous of is jealous with someone else and so on. So it's a never ending cycle of jealousy and comparison. For instance, when Lena came and creating a bond with Frank, Arrow and Beatrice got jealous. They both did not like Lena's frankness with Frank. As a member of society, we need to honor one another. It is a responsibility of every person to boost up each other. We should recognize that there are many people in this world who have the same abilities like us.

Selfishness is a part of human nature that enforces a person to make others suffer. But according to researcher this selfishness might be due to love. For instance, when princess put bird in the cage because she did not want her to leave. Princess did not want her bird to face danger caused by other animals. Someone does not want his loved ones to suffer in difficult situations. If something is hazardous for other, this makes him selfish. Researcher has found that some driving force fabricates anger or hate in a person's mind i.e. Frank got angry when she saw Arrow eating madly and destroying her previous struggles for being slim. For researcher anger or hate is not bad itself. Behind it, there are several reasons that make it bad. These reasons produce anger or hate in an individual. For instance, the elder sisters of princess were faced a continuous name changing habit of king and he gave them less importance.

Researcher has explicated that sometimes beauty falls in possession. A person is more caring and concern about his partner. It is said that possession dismantles the relations. For researcher possession beautifies relationships. For example, when princess forces bird to remain in the cage so that's how bird will be protected, but she did it because she was possessed. Pride is considered as wrong doing. Pride disgraces others when show in a negative way. But when someone achieves success, his loved ones feel proud. It gives a sense of beauty and pleasure i.e. when bird sang beautiful song and was admired by everyone. It is a decent feeling resulting from positive analysis of character. Passion is whereas considered as personal concept. In reality it is medial i.e. the three fat women were so passionate about food stuff. They found beauty only in food which took them in world of amusement. Passion is vigorous emotion for pleasure. It takes a person far from reality in fancy.

## Conclusion

This chapter can be concluded with notion of beauty that remains in mind. Things or people are not bad but sometimes circumstances make them. Researcher has compared the positive and negative ideas that reflect beauty. Beauty is an impression rather than an idea. This impression describes a person or an object as beautiful or ugly and to make a proper judgment about them.

## Recommendations

This can be helpful for the future researchers of aestheticism. Researcher has provided some efficient means for other researchers. They can research on Maugham's *Princess September* and *The three fat women of Antibes* by applying different theories. The psychoanalytic theory can be applied to these stories. Plotinus intellectual theory can be suitable for these stories. The data is provided in this study give them better understanding and improve standards. Finally, future researchers can examine specific terms mentioned in research can be helpful for further developments. They would be able to apply theory of aestheticism on different texts.

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