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**Moral Versus Immoral Behaviours in Selected American and Scottish Novels**

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**Abstract**

Morals are standards of right conduct and appropriate attitude. They are neither exactly individual nor social. Every society in general controls which behaviours are moral and which are immoral based on cultural norms within any given society be it a small community or the world that are subject to change over time. Contributing factors may include, but are not limited to, economic situations, religious beliefs, parental upbringing, and political beliefs.

Morals are the principles concerned with the acts of right and wrong. These are divided into Absolute Morality, Subjective Morality and Relative Morality. Immoral is the opposite of moral. Immorality is when a particular act someone omit is considered wrong. This is not accepted by the current standards of morality. Moreover, Moral acts are the acts that are always considered good and immoral acts are things that are considered bad by the society. Some acts can be considered immoral among some peoples and the same act can be a good and moral act in a different society. The difference can be attributed to the culture, religion, social values and even the environment of that society. Various writers dealt with morals in different ways depending on their background, origin, and their tendency. *The Wasp Factory*, written by Iain Banks and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry present different kinds of morals, each depending on their society and surroundings.

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## Introduction

The world changes rapidly, influencing several different things such as individuals, communities, along with different viewpoints and beliefs. As time progresses, people can see the major changes that are emerging, but they also miss the elements that remain the same and the constant factors. Morals are something that will exist, no matter how many years pass, and when a person's morals are decent or evil, they are something embedded in them. Morals are personal choices, although one's morals can be influenced by the external power of one's friends, and choices to be taken based on the choice or opinion of another person. A person's actions shape his/her morals. They are the backbone of one's capacity to differentiate between right and wrong. Morals draw on this to construct context-specific laws that regulate a person's actions (Singer 33).

Consequently, human morals have been established over thousands of years, through which they have incorporated both their genetic material and their society. Over time, as a result of these genetic and cultural shifts, human brains have grown such that they have a stronger respect for others, are eager to respond to any aggression that might be aimed toward them, and have formed moral values that help them get along together. In the Past, individuals were very severe in their opinion of right and wrong, thus, their sentences, even for small crimes, were severe and merciless (Hare 97). Today's culture has a greater sense of right and wrong and has understood the gravity of people's acts, but misconceptions, which are continually used, encourage problematic behavior.

Over the past few decades, the morality of cultures has shifted dramatically as individuals exalt the concept of personal choice. Many issues that were seen as definitely wrong are now stubbornly argued over as being correct. Morality is a system of actions and values that directs humanity within a culture in its customs, taboos, and cultural norms. Although the moral codes of one society

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vary from those of another, on one hand, they have various similarities on the other.

People in similar situations may react in totally different ways, leading to very different outcomes. The degree to which people think their moral interpretation is objectively right is known as morals. Morals are a theory of a righteous branch of philosophy. It deals with standards that make specific actions right or wrong irrespective of context or outcome. On the other hand, some morals claim that no action is always, everywhere, and for everyone, right or wrong. *The Wasp Factory* by Iain Banks and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry show the impact of morals upon political, social, religious, and psychological points of view. Both novels dealt chiefly with society; more specifically, each described a different form of government (Albert 22).

In *The Wasp Factory*, the protagonist Frank represents the British weakly trying to defend their land. Meanwhile, he is not satisfied with his cruelty. In comparison, his brother represents the Americans. Frank feels obliged to support his half-brother but is also depressed by his actions; stronger, crueler, more unpredictable and erratic, and much less restrained than his own. He loves his brother significantly but has a complicated relationship with him. Furthermore, Frank cares deeply for Eric and repeatedly expresses concern for his brother's safety as he is of an unsound mind. Frank is always worried when his brother calls; he always keeps Eric down and is constantly concerned about him before and after phone calls. He is saddened by his brother's loss of sanity and wishes that nothing terrible would happen to him. Thus, Bank's novel goes possibly about the problematic relationship between UK and USA. Frank represents the British who is desperately obliged to help his half-brother, who represent America, to get well and overcome obstacles (Banks 10).

My father dressing Eric up as a girl was just, as it turned out, a rehearsal for me. When Old Saul Savaged me, my father saw it as an ideal opportunity for a little experiment and a way of lessoning- perhaps removing entirely – the influence of the female around him as I grow up. So he started dosing

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me with male hormones and has been ever since. That's why he's always made the meals. That is why what I've always thought was the stump of a penis is really an enlarged clitoris. Hence the beard, no periods, and all the rest. (The Wasp Factory 181)

Frank loses reasoning, and his brutal nature is exposed. As he transforms into a savage, Frank's dad has secretly put additional male hormones in Frank's food since he was a young child. Frank was born female, but after years of irregular male hormone intake, his body and mind slowly transformed into a male. Old Saul the dog attacked Frances, but she was not castrated by the puppy since she already had feminine organs. However, Angus took the accident as an excuse for his experiment. He began giving Frances male hormones and raising his daughter as a boy. He became unbalanced and could not make decisions as a normal, unharmed person would. His thoughts and actions are different because he genuinely does not know any better. He has no one to help him. The character's actions, according to moral relativism, are normal because everybody is supposed to behave according to his background, affected by his surroundings. In Frank's perspective, his actions are exciting, but in reality, his actions are immoral and sometimes disgusting. Frank's father is definitely to be blamed for his obsession. First, the hormones are the primary reason why his actions and thoughts are so unconventional.

*The Giver* was written in 1993, a time when public awareness of political correctness was at its highest level, and this historical sense is curiously mirrored in some parts of the culture that Lowry portrays. One of the most famous arguments on political correctness was the importance of celebrating diversity among individuals versus the value of letting everybody believe as if they belong to that particular society. At a moment of increasing focus on democracy worldwide, Americans typically agree on political principles and values significant to the United States. Nevertheless, for the most part, they see that the nation falls in living up to such goals, according to a recent survey of knowledge on the positives and shortcomings of core facets of American

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democracy and the political system. Americans have a specific interest in supporting the spreading of democracy. America was founded on the principle of ensuring independence for its people (Bankston 66). Many documents and organizations stress that democracy is a central virtue. Lowry wanted to point out the importance of equality and freedom in any society or, more specifically, in her novel community. She decided to criticize any possessive authority or controlling government by introducing restricted and controlled community. The citizens in this community found themselves in similar circumstances. The citizens were genetically changed and drugged so that they all became remarkably similar. They were inexperienced to know what was happening. They only knew: "The life without color, pain or past" (Lowry 152). Also, one feature of an unrestricted culture is undoubtedly the freedom of people, their ability to behave the way they like, and free will away from the selfish, domestic and controlled community. America started as the most accessible country in the world, which is not correct. It has founded the idea that people have the right to think for themselves and decide what they believe and how they wish to act. As in most places, there are rules, and extreme deviance is punished. Americans think absolutist and act relativist. In *The Giver*, Lowry's principal message is that making one's own choice is not destructive. The absence of choice is more harmful in this culture because all decisions are made for individuals, and they behave in merciless and wicked ways as a consequence without even knowing it (Anolik 201). Without being subjected to regulation by an oppressive governing body, citizens must remain free to live their lives as they see fit. While this futuristic society has successfully eliminated hate, pain, bigotry, and several otherworldly ills, it has done so at a tremendous cost (Anderson 102).

"Then all of the citizens had been ordered to go into the nearest building and stay there. IMMEDIATELY, the rasping voice through the speakers had said. LEAVE YOUR BICYCLES WHERE THEY ARE."(The Giver 2)

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Going even further, Lowry explains how individuals who live in this community must follow their leader's command. These lines illustrate how straightaway people respond to the announcement and go along to the direct order. The capital letters are used to denote a louder, almost shouting through the air and made so that everyone listens to it. There are no excuses for the citizen to disobey. In *The Giver*, moral absolutism is depicted through a big community in which there is no pain, crime, greed, and unhappiness. There is also no love, no desire, and the people are not free to have children or use language that breaks strict laws. The weather is also controlled, which is always hot, and colors have been omitted.

The authors of *The Giver* and *The Wasp Factory* present their protagonists Jonas and Frank to have very similar characteristics. Both of them have to obey strict rules directed to them. Both have the intelligence to know more and want to know what is outside of the place they live in. They reached self-realization at the end of the novels. Frank figures out the truth, but not until he has lost much of his confidence and trust in his father, forever destroying their relationship (Baldwin 55-60). The same for Jonas when he rejected his community's perfect setting and discovered the truths about his society which is portrayed as the perfect place to live in, because the citizens are honest and united. Knowing the truth causes him to rebel against the community and eventually escape to Elsewhere with baby Gabriel.

## Conclusion

Over the past years many academic studies were dedicated to deal with morality and human values which were introduced as moral lessons for readers. The current paper advises people to live by these principles: Don't injure, don't steal, be obedient, help the poor, and be kind to others. These principles are present in almost all the world's religions. Thus, it would seem that moral absolutists are particularly stressed, as morals are almost undoubtedly universal.

Different views were constructed about morals. These opinions were sharing a similar feature in that morals are not becoming more relative or absolute but, they are just changing. Some things become unacceptable, others become normalized. One would argue that the changes are very much positive. Thus, the study draws a concluding line that absolutism and relativism of morality could be dangerously explained and adapted within and by different cultures.

السلوك الأخلاقي بالضد من السلوك الغير أخلاقي في روايات أمريكية وأسكتلندية مختارة  
الكلمات المفتاحية: الأخلاق ، الفاحشة ، السلوك

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## المخلص

الأخلاق هي معايير السلوك الصحيح أو الموقف المناسب. إنهم ليسوا أفراداً ولا اجتماعيين. يتحكم كل مجتمع بشكل عام في السلوكيات الأخلاقية وغير الأخلاقية وتعتمد على المعايير الثقافية داخل أي مجتمع معين سواء كان مجتمعاً صغيراً أو العالم ويمكن أن يتغير بمرور الوقت. يمكن أن تشمل العوامل المساهمة، على سبيل المثال لا الحصر، المواقف الاقتصادية والمعتقدات الدينية وتنشئة الوالدين والمعتقدات السياسية الأخلاق هي المبادئ المتعلقة بالأفعال الصائبة والباطل. وهي مقسمة إلى الأخلاق المطلقة والأخلاق الذاتية والأخلاق النسبية. اللاأخلاقي هو عكس الأخلاقي. غير الأخلاقي هو عندما يعتبر فعل معين يغفل عنه شخص ما خطأ. هذا غير مقبول للمعايير الأخلاقية

الحالية. علاوة على ذلك، فإن الأفعال الأخلاقية هي الأفعال التي تعتبر دائماً جيدة، والأفعال الفاسدة هي شيء يعتبره المجتمع سيئاً. يمكن اعتبار بعض الأفعال غير أخلاقية بين بعض الشعوب ويمكن أن يكون نفس الفعل فعلاً صالحاً وأخلاقياً في مجتمع مختلف. الفرق بين هذا يعتمد أيضاً على الثقافة والدين والقيم الاجتماعية وحتى بيئة ذلك المجتمع. تعامل الكتاب المختلفون مع الأخلاق بطرق مختلفة جداً اعتماداً على خلفيتهم وأصلهم وميولهم. تقدم مصنع الدبابير بواسطة إيان بانكس و المعطي بواسطة لويس لوري أنواعاً مختلفة من الأخلاق اعتماداً على مجتمعهم ومحيطهم وأصلهم وميولهم .

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