

Vanity and Violence in Stephen Crane's

Maggie: A Girl of the Streets

Abstract

Stephen Crane's Maggie: A Girl of the Streets has been criticized for its "episodic" style, "weakness for words," or "inadequacy" since its publication in 1893. However, Crane's portrayal of the late 19th century Bowery slum life has kept attracting critics' attention for its ironic touch on human vanity and violence. For example, characters, like Jimmie, Pete, and Mrs. Johnson, are all used to picking up vanity and violence as means of self-justification. Besides, Crane is very good at handling colors and images for the specific intention of his narration. The following reading is an attempt to analyze Crane's techniques of narration, to see how he displays his artistic craftsmanship to portray vanity and violence as underlying themes throughout Maggie.

Keywords: Stephen Crane, Maggie, Vanity, Violence, American Literary Naturalism

史蒂芬·葛倫 瑪姬：阻街女郎 小說中的虛榮與暴力

摘要

史蒂芬·葛倫所著瑪姬：阻街女郎自一八九三年出版以來，就常被指敘事情節不連貫、詞不達意，或因文風弱點而飽受批評。然而，持續引起文評家關注的是在這本描述美國十九世紀末紐約貧民窟生活中，葛倫卻以他反諷式的手法，生動地刻畫人們生活中所顯露出的虛榮與暴力。其中的角色，諸如吉米、皮特、強生太太等，都也以此作為自我正當化的藉口與手段。除此之外，葛倫也善於運用色彩與意象，來刻意地呈現他所要表達的敘事目的。本篇研究即是針對葛倫在書中所展現的寫作技巧，探討他是如何成功地鋪陳人性的虛榮與暴力，並使其成為貫穿全篇小說的重要主題。

關鍵字：史蒂芬·葛倫、瑪姬：阻街女郎、虛榮、暴力、美國自然主義文學