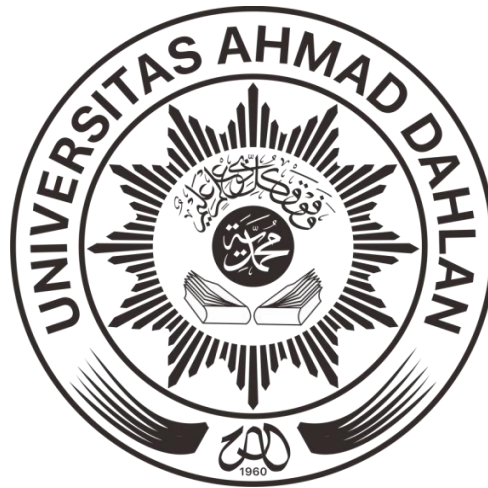


**A HIPPOLYTE TAINÉ ANALYSIS IN  
H.P. LOVECRAFT'S *SHADOW OVER INNSMOUTH***

**NASKAH PUBLIKASI**

Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of Requirements  
to Obtain Bachelor Degree in English Literature Department



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**ABSTRACT**

The research entitled “ A Hippolyte Taine Analysis : Race Discrimination Depicted in H.P.Lovecraft’s *Shadow Over Innsmouth*” aims to determine the Hippolyte Taine’s theory regarding dominant factor of *Shadow Over Innsmouth* in the author live experience within 3 main factors, race, moment, and time. The researcher also mentions the discrimination in both novel and author’s live. The novel tells us about the main character investigating a town near the coastline Massachusetts. He decided to investigate further despite being warned thus discovering grim and mysterious information.

This research is classified as qualitative research. The data is obtained from multiple source and the novel *Shadow Over Innsmouth* as the main data. After reading the novel multiple times, the researcher collects will gather the data to support the objective of the research. To analyze the data the researcher uses the Mimetic by M.H.Abrams theory.

The result of this study shows that Lovecraft literary works inherits the author’s life aspects. the novel tell the story of discrimination and social classes among the race in grim place called Innsmouth during 1900’s. A small town where social class were divided by their genetic purity. Creating issue such as racism and cults much like events taken place in author’s life as well as author’s views towards genetic purity and cults such as KKK in similar year.

*Keyword : Dominant faculty, Discrimination, Author experience*

## INTRODUCTION

Literature is part of human idea and an imitation, reflection, or representation of the world and human life, and the primary criterion applied to a work is the “truth“ of its representation to the subject matter that it is represent, or should represent (Abrams, 1957: 51). Thus giving a glimpse of author’s life experience through its work and reason behind it. As reflection to human nature, literature posses every social facts such as ideology, world view, including social issue such as race discrimination in America during 1900s. This issue has been brought to numerous book title as the main conflict such as *Shadow Over Innsmouth*.

*Shadow Over Innsmouth* written in 1936 by H.P. Lovecraft. The story took place in America in 1927. The main character encounters various events that really turn the atmosphere to immense tension. It happened after he visited a town he was unfamiliar with. There he meets with people or race rather, in strange characteristics and yet bringing out an odd presence until the situation strays deeper into a darker plot. Slavery, cult, and xenophobia lead the reader into a environment resembling to the author’s life experience back in his era.

Work of literature doesn't come instantly without trigger and inspiration such as experience, phenomenon, and world view. H.P. Lovecraft is one of the most controversial writer until this day due to his racism and view to his surrounding. This is due to the view toward other race back in the author’s era is still lack of tolerance towards other race. Slavery against black African descent

display the Social stratification in America back in 1900's depicted in some of H.P. literary works.

This suits to Hippolyte Taine theory in order to find the predominant characteristic that determines his work with 3 main aspect, race environment and time. "Three different sources contribute to the production of this elementary moral state, race, environment, and epoch"(Taine 1863) . Since Hippolyte Taine Theory settled in sociology analysis by race , environment and moment, we can compare the 3 elements into the novel.Supported with M.H. Abram mimetic theory that indicates Literary theory as an imitation, or reflection, or representation of the world and human life, and the primary criterion applied to a work is the "truth" of its representation to the subject matter that it represents(Abrams, 1971: 8).

*Shadow Over Innsmouth* which is one of the iconic Lovecraftian story and the only story that was published in book during Lovecraft's lifetime. It is interesting that the story have been adopted by many authors in many forms like Stephen Jones and Shinsuke Minegishi even after Lovecraft's death. From novels, comic, and games *Shadow Over Innsmouth* influences can be found on modern meida, such as *The Thing*, *Sinking City*, *Bloodborne*, etc.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The method and Technique of collecting data itself will be collected from the current source while applying qualitative analysis. Proceeding with reading and identifying based on the theory and approach that have been chosen. They are Journal articles, books, and other relevant sources.

#### A. Main Data

The main data is acquired from *Shadow Over Innsmouth* (1936) with 56 pages by H. P. Lovecraft. Discussing the novel the researcher will mention numbers of words, sentences, paragraphs, and so on.

#### B. Supporting Data

The supporting data is collected from several sources from books biography, and other source that relevant to the study. The supporting data is meant to sharpen the analysis on this study.

The method and Technique of collecting data itself will be collected from the current source while applying qualitative analysis. Proceeding with reading and identifying based on the theory and approach that have been chosen. They are Journal articles, books, and other relevant sources.

The Procedure of Analyzing data include several steps which:

- A. Researcher Reads the novel *Shadow Over Innsmouth* in order to understand the point of the novel
- B. Finding the race discrimination of *Shadow Over Innsmouth*.
- C. Analyze Hippolyte Taine's theory on race, environment and moment in the data that have been collected.
- D. Next find the relation in real life based on Mimetic theory by M.H Abrams from data which has been collected is needed.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The researcher presents the research findings about the relation of the 3 elements of Hippolyte Taine in order to find the dominant factor of the literary work.

### **A. Race, Environment, and Moment**

#### **1. Race**

Firstly the main character gain information about people of Innsmouth from folks around the city. According to multiple sources people should not involve themselves or come near Innsmouth. It goes through Innsmouth, you may have heard about that and so people don't like it (H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 4). Resulting Innsmouth became alienated from neighbouring town.

Morover the reader given a hint that some people outside Innsmouth still displeased about interracial marriage. It is as if interracial marriage will have negative effect on their generation. Treating people from Innsmouth or have the blood of Innsmouth like a different kind of race.

“He's supposed to have developed some skin disease or deformity late in life that makes him keep out of sight. Grandson of Captan Obed Marsh, who founded the busines. His mother seems to've been some kind of foreigner they say a South Sea islander so everybody raised Cain when he married an Ipswich firl fifty years ago. They always do that about Innsmouth people, and folks here and hereabouts always try to cover up any Innsmouth blood they have in 'em (H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 47)”

The story continues to Innsmouth where the main character starts to notice the change of atmosphere. He starts to recognize the physical appearance of some of the folks in Innsmouth. Furthermore people treat some of the people with

certain look differently. Based on certain physical appearance and how town folks treat with each other, it can be classified into 3 different classes.

#### **a. The Deep Ones**

Firstly introduced in *Shadow Over Innsmouth* in the near end of the story. The deep ones portrayed as the ancient creature that venture the sea far before the human exist. Their goal is to spread the belief and serve the godly entity Dagon and Hydra by sacrificing the younglings of the Innsmouth.

”We shall swim out to that brooding reef in the sea dive down through black abyss to Cyclopean and many -columned Y’ha-ntheli, and in that lair of the Deep Ones we shall dwell amidst wonder and glory forever” (H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 :47)

The Deep Ones distant itself from the town folks however they are the one responsible for the bountiful fish catches in return for cult follower and eventually demanding even more request such as human sacrifice and creating hybrids between the deep ones and humans. Some people in Innsmouth even devote themselves to the deep ones and agreed to perform ritual rites or volunteering to sacrifice themselves.

“Them things told the Kanakys that ef they mixed bloods there’d be children as ud look human at fust, but later turn more’n more like things , till finally they’d take to the water an’ jine the main loto’ things daown thar. An’ this is the important part, young feller-them as turned into fish things an’ went into the water wouldn’t never die. Them things never died excep’ they was kilt violent.(H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 22)”

The Deep Ones viewed as noble and race without flaws or weaknesses.

After Obed and the cult has been jailed for human trafficking, The Old Ones scour the town with terror searching for sacrifice and leaving the survivor to continue the cult.

“Maounds o’ the dead an’ the dyin’...shots and screams...shaoutin’ in Ol’Squar an’ Taown Squar an’ New Church Green-Gaol thrownd open...proclamation...treason...called it pleague when folks come in an’ faond haff our people missin’...nobody left but them as ud jine in with Obed an’ them things or else keep quiet...never heard o’my pa no more...”(H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 25)

Male and female inhabitants were forced to breed with the Deep Ones, thus producing the hybrid offspring which eventually turns to Deep Ones for eternity.

#### **b. Human race**

The Human race considered to be the race that stand in the midle ground between the Deep Ones and Hybrids. Introduced in the early story, people showed their view towards other race expecially toward people live in Innsmouth.

“But the real thing behind the way folks feel is simply race prejudice-- and I don’t say I’m blaming those that hold it. I hate those Innsmouth folks myself, and I wouldn’t care to go to their town. I s’pose you know--though I can see you’re a Westerner by your talk--what a lot our New England ships--Used to have to do with queer ports in Africa, Asia the South Seas, and everywhere else, and what queer kinds of people they sometimes brought back with ‘em. (H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 5)”

Not long until the main character met the first native from innsmouth mid journey to the Innsmouth. Confirming the Innsmouth rumor about their odd looks.

“A certain greasiness about the fellow increased my dislike. He was evidently given to working or lounging around the fish docks, and carried with him much of their characteristic smell. Just what foregin blood was in him I could not even guess. His oddities certainly did not look Asiatic, Polynesian , Levantine or negroid, yet I could see why the people found him alien. I myself would have thought of biological degeneration rather than alienage.(H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 10)”

After his arrival to Innsmouth he greeted with the odd looks of Innsmouth and its people. Empty houses and folks of Innsmouth with their unnatural



characteristics tells an eerie atmosphere upon his arrival. The protagonist immediately projects his dislikes towards the innsmouth through the story.

“Somehow these people seemed more disquieting than the dismal buildings, for almost every one had certain peculiarities of face and motions which I instinctively disliked without being able to define or comprehend them. (H.P.Lovecraft, 1936 : 12)”.

However the protagonist met a non native drunken old folk that wanders in Innsmouth named Zadok Allen . Zadok Allen is one of the remaining human in Innsmouth that strays from any religion and cult. He is the only characters that knows a scratch of secrets in the Innsmouth in his intoxicated state. Zadok gives the protagonist a couple of information regarding the town itself.

### **c. The Hybrids**

The hybrids are the offspring from the deep ones and humans from Innsmouth folks. They are more likely lives among the towns folk of innsmouth until they slowly changes appearance resemling the deep ones in late teen. During their transformation from teen to the old days they mostly spent their live exiled in abandoned house or factory. Eventually transform fully and succumb to the depth of the sea.

”When it come to matin’ with them toad-- lookin’ fishes, the Kanakys kind o’balked, but finally they larn something as put a new face on matter. Seems that human folks has got a kind a’relationship to sech water beast--that everything alive come aout o’ the water onct an’ only needs a little change to go back agin, Them things told the Kanakys that ef they mixed bloods there’d be children as ud look human at fust, but later turn more n’ more like things, till finally they’d dake to the water an’ jine the main lot’o things daown har.(H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 22)”

These look or characteristic what makes the hybrids distinct from town citizen from outer town or normal human resulting discrimination and despised.

“Evidently the ticket-agent had not exaggerated the dislike which local People bore toward Innsmouth and its citizen (H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 10).”

Those characteristic makes the town shuts down from the others as if a new plague starts in Innsmouth.

“It got wuss araound Civil War time, when the children bron enct ‘forty six begun to grow up some ‘em, that is . I was afeared never did no pryin’ arter that awful night, an’ never see one o’them clost to in all my life. That is, never come back, but settled away from here. But folks wrote me things wa’n’t so bad . That, I’s’pose , was because gov’munt draft men was in taown arter ‘sixty three. Arter the war it was jest as bad agin. People begun to fall off mills an’shops shet daown, shippin’sstopped an’ the harbor chiked up, railrud give up, but they never stopped swimmin’ in an’ aout o’ the river from that cursed reef o’Satan, an’ more an’ more attic winders got a boarded up, an’ more an’ more noises was heerd in haous as wa’n’t s’posed to have nobody in ‘em...(H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 26)”

## 2. Environment

Arriving in Innsmouth the protagonist greeted with decaying state of a town with abandoned house and no sign a single living being nearby.

“All the houses were apparently deserted, and there were occasional gaps where tumbledown chimneys and cellar walls told of buildings that had collapsed. Prevading everything was the most nauseous fishy odor imaginable (H.P. Lovecraft,1936 : 4)”.

Walking deep further to the town the protagonist find a change of atmosphere in which he saw a bleak neighbour hood. Some kids playing with weed growing in the doorstep, people working in the barren, gardens of farm somehow shares the same gloomy look. Everything seems dead except for the church where the main character can hear a noise inside indicating an activity is being held. However the voices gives an unpleasant aura to the protagonist’s ear.

“...their voices were disgusting. It was awful to hear them chanting in their churches at night, and especially during their main festivals or revivals (H.P. Lovecraft,1936 : 15).”

### 3. Time

Taken place during the 1927 the main character is sent to investigate a town near the coastline called Innsmouth.

“During the winter of of 1927-28 officials of the Federal government made a strange and secret investigation of certain conditions in the ancient Massachusetts seaport of Innsmouth (H.P. Lovecraft, 1936 : 1).

The main character is drafted to investigate the strange phenomenon happened in Innsmouth. Innsmouth town used to be a big town in America near the coast line.

Known for its big harbour and fishing bussines.

“Innsmouth? Well, it’s a queer kind of a town down at the mouth of the Manuxet. Used to be almost a city, quiet a port before the War of 1812 (H.P. Lovecraft,1936 : 4)”.

Thanks to captain Obed Marsh, he was one of the known figure from Innsmouth.

Obed Marsh brought wealth to people in Innsmouth with gold Treasure and plenty of fish harvests.

Rumor said after the War in 1846 half of the citizen of Innsmouth is gone without a trace includes, but some speculate it was caused by an unknown pleague from china.

“That was before the big epidemic of 1846, when over half the folks in Innsmoth was carried off. They never did quite figure out what the trouble was, but it was foreign kind of disease brought from china or somewhere (H.P. Lovecraft,1936 : 5)”.

Now Innsmouth has been taken over by Obed Marsh’s descendant named Barnabas Marsh though the town currently in a bad shape when the protagonist arrived.

## **B. Dominant Faculty**

“Discussing H.P. Lovecraft story often linked to eldritch or cosmic horror which defined as fear of the unknown and incomprehensible” (Sarah Davis, 2019). Lovecraft shifted supernatural horror away from its previous focus on human issue into the cosmic ones by focusing on typical alien media that lingers around the beneath the sea. Sometimes his creation is unintelligible and unseen, affecting people without them realizing it. But all of his stories share one quality that they are horror outside of human understanding. Something that greater than human being that drives them insane.

The connection between him and his stories are strong however. Starts from his strong believe in atheism outlined in his 1922 essay *A Confession of Unfaith* there he conveys his shift away from Protestantism like his parents. It is no difference to his obsession to tell a story about insanity. His parents were mentally unstable, his father namely Winfield Scott Lovecraft having his psychotic episodes and handed to Butler Hospital in Providence before dying in 1898. The same can be applied to 3 aspect in Hippolyte Taine’s theory

### **1. Race**

His view towards race is one of the most controversial aspect of Lovecraft’s legacy. The discrimination within the novel may be due to the nature of xenophobia in America during the time where believes and religion can be altered into weapon towards other race. One of the most noticeable were the author view towards the others. Expressed in numbers of occasion made some people often labeled Lovecraft as a white supremacist. This further proven by his

opinion regarding race in some of his letters. In some of his letter he project an overly offensive statement quote : “They can’t let niggers use the beach as a Southern resort - can you imagine sensitive persons bathing near a pack of greasy chimpanzees? (Michael Houellebecq, 1991 :34)”. His hateful view towards African American is a common issue for light skinned American especially during the 19’s. Not only called African American race a feral animal as an insult but also refering a stereotypical African American descendant can’t do white sport such as ice hokey and swimming . Lovecraft also argues in his letter to Jehvish-Ei in September 1933 that “...Nordic stock is intellectually & aesthetically superior to all others, & that even a trace of non-Nordic blood or non-Aryan is enough to alter the psychology & citizenly potentialities of an individual.” expressing his opinion towards the superiority of a pure blooded race can be stained by others in their discussion about Hitler’s view.

This is might be due to his experience during the end of Victorian era and the period known as the Nadir of American race relations where it was the period in African American history facing racism fighting for their rights. With racism comes another issue such as birth of a cult with over than two millions follower that object giving rights to African American citizen known as Ku Klux Klan.

The Ku Klux Klan or KKK is align to Lovecraft views to pure blood and resent towards other race. Some people have similar believe and this was a horrible but a common view. It might have due to the common American view portrayed in the film Birth of a Nation in 1915. A successful movie that portrays its black characters and foreigners in a bad light, it heavily influence the up

bringing of KKK the racial group with thousands of members responsible for numbers of criminal activity. The movie itself even have been brought to the white house by President Woodrow Wilson “It’s like writing with lightning. With only regrets is that is all terribly true.” president Woodrow Wilson said.

## **2. Environment**

Innsmouth originally based from Newburyport a town in America he visited 3 years prior releasing *The Shadow Over Innsmouth* to be exact. Lovecraft sent a letter stated that “ The old Newburrport churchyard is very alluring & I am glad to learn that you had a chance to explore old Joppy” to Helen V. Sully, 27 September 1933. A joppy is other pronunciation of Joppa which mean a local nickname for Newburyport. It was formerly restricted to the small hamlet of tiny fishing cottages at the extreme south of the town resembling Innsmouth. Further more Lovecraft shows his dislike towards Newburyport in the same letter he sent to Helen V.Sully, 27 September 1933 quote “Hope you saw all the representative features of Newburrport, the old church [...] Merket square with its 1825 brick buildings,& the unpaved, sidewalkless pre-Revolutionary streets with rotting, half deserted houses south of the square “ depicting grim and old atmosphere of the town.

In other case there is Gilman House in *Shadow Over Innsmouth* as in Sargent Murray Gilman Hough House that have been built around 1760 He visited 2 years before releasing *Shadow Over Innsmouth*. Proven by the Sargent Murray Gilman Hough House was mentioned in Lovecraft letter to miss Helen V. Sully “ The Sargent &c. house must have given you an excellent idea of typical middle

period colonial interior...”( Lovecraft, Howard. July 26). It is save to assume Sergant gilman House inspire Lovecraft even though the Gilman House Lovecraft visited is much smaller than what have been mentioned in the *Shadow Over Innsmouth* .

### 3. Time

Lovecraft was born during the end of the Victorian era and the period known as the “nadir of race relations” in the United States. Period in which racism and lack of civil rights were common during the time. Even though Lovecraft was born in August 1890 he referenced some of the American history in *Shadow Over Innsmouth* as if his literary work and the current world we are living in shares the same place. There is multiple American History Lovecraft referenced such as American war history and couples of historical events that presents around US.

One of the historical events that presents both in the story and Author’s real life are the Epidemic of 1846 or Cholera pandemic.

”That was before the big epidemic of 1846, when over half the folks in Innsmouth was carried off. They never did quiet figure out what the trouble was, but it was probably some foreign kind of disease brought from China...” ( Lovecraft 1936:5).

Connected to the Cholera pandemic happened back in 1837 originated from India happened back in 1840s .“Cholera first reached the Americas during the 2<sup>nd</sup> pandemic with over 150.000 Americans dying between 1832 and 1849” (Jian,Sunny 2001:157). A Pandemic that share the time and origin even tough it was not from china but its come from Eastern country in Asia.

Few years apart from the Epidemic America faced with another war with themselves regarding slavery or people may know it as Civil War. “Slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All I knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war” (White 2006:81). Lovecraft mention Civil War in his work *Shadow Over Innsmouth* in some occasion, one of which the characters arguing about interracial marriage. “There had, Mr Peabody said, been considerable discussion about the marriage of her father, Benjamin Orne, Just after the Civil War; since the ancestry of the bride was peculiarly puzzling”(Lovecraft 1936:43). Even though the interracial marriage mentioned in the novel was not towards African American, the doubts of having relation with people unknown origin is common in people’s believes.

## **CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the problem in chapter 3 it is safe to assume that Lovecraft pour his life experience into his works. Fulfilling Taine’s theory regarding literary works inherit their author’s life experience. Analyzing the three different sources that contribute to the depicting dominant factor of a literary work.

Lovecraft bring the fear of the unknown or xenophobia in the form of racism culture. He sees the Innsmouth folks as a new born race with ill looking characteristic that live in horrific place especially the hybrids. The hybrids are rare to be found since they hide themselves for their appearances. This was due to Interracial marriage between Innsmout folks with unknown entity in return for wealthy amount of golds and fish harvest. Innsmouth run by fish like Cultists



namely the Deep Ones after the Civil War. The Deep Ones controls the whole town, ask for offering to continue the offspring, or even commits mass murder. Similar to the couples events on America in mid 1800s to 1900s where Racism were common and Cult such as KKK, it consist of white supremacist, hate group, a terrorist organization even. The existence of this Racism issue among the American led the country into war eventually. Civil War was known for depicting racism issue in America caused mostly by different opinion towards slavery by the states. Even With the extreme numbers of casualties left cities abandoned. Which led the cities abandoned and left with grim situation

Additionally Innsmouth were based on Newburyport where both Innsmouth and Newburyport located in Massachusetts. It was stated on one of Lovecraft letter discussing his visit to Newburyport on its grim state 3 years prior releasing the novel . The same with some of place in the novel such as Ghilman house based on the Sargent Murray Gilman Hough House a year after.

The story ends vaguely with fears and doubts in the Main character's mind regarding his existence. Doubting his own true identity not knowing hating his own kind through out the story. This might be due to Author's nature in America around 1900s where race equality were scarce. Lovecraft's view towards the genetic purity on his letters might be the dominant factor of *Shadow Over Innsmouth* main story.

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