Morality and free will in A Clockwork Orange, by Anthony Burgess - UEPG

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Abstract

In a dystopian society fostered by violence and teenage rebellion, Alex DeLarge - a 14-year-old teenager - stars in scenes of extreme violence with his partners. Alex commits brutal crimes in which he believes to have the right to stretch the limits of his free will, then having no choice after undergoing Ludovico's technique, highlighting the central themes that revolve around morality and freedom. In this work, I try to explore these limits that separate what is considered good from what is considered bad, the protagonist's perception of this and the ethics of a method that violently corrupts an individual's mind in order to control the population, instead of re-educating or seeking to rehabilitate each individual so that they can return to society without any loss of identity.

Introduction

The book places its central theme around free will, morality and the power of choice, in which we see Alex's trajectory from impunity for his bad behavior to being abandoned by his own partners and caught by the police after having already undergone correction without much result. The aim of the article is to investigate what makes up the concept of free will in the novel and to uncover how it allows the reader to develop their own idea on the subject, portraying a very young protagonist who is still building his place in the world and what makes the reality around him so unbearable, while at the same time underlining his own distorted ideas of morality and free will.

Materials and Methods

The main materials used in the method were the work, online research tools, Jstor, Google Scholar, the adaptation of the work by director Stanley Kubrick, and the reading of other theoretical works on the topics covered, contextualizing the concept of utopia, dystopia, their variations in literature to better fit the work being worked on with the theme being researched.

Results and Discussion

The lack of comprehension of his own critical condition already puts him in a position of not being able to choose, nor defend himself, and even with Alexander the Writer it is difficult for him to get a grasp on what is actually happening to him, being thrown from the streets to jail, from jail to torture, from torture to a political tool in rallies, to not learn anything at all from his experience at the end.

Conclusion

Alex isn't free from the start, because the conditions of his parents and his life led him to rebel, then the conditions of the prison led him to become a technician, and even in his last moments in the book, when he comes to terms with everything, free will is still a very small part of what we can choose in our lives. This in no way eliminates the perverse choices made by him and his acts of transgression, but it does serve to demonstrate that our choices are made within a preestablished limit of the context in which we find ourselves.

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I dedicate it to my mom and to my little sister and the university research program.

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