

**PROBLEM OF SHAME, ISOLATING AND INSULTING IN „THE SCARLETT LETTER”
BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE**

Elmanova Mastura Toshnazarovna

Senior teacher of English Linguistics Department

Saidova Jasmna Khamzaevna

Student of Bukhara State University

Abstract: *The novel Scarlet letter begins in the village of Puritan New England. A young women Hester Prynne who is the main heroine faces with challenges via her infant daughter out of wedlock. Then struggles to create a new life of dignity. Her husband Roger can not stand this and by insulting her makes wear scarlet letter „A”. After his lover Dimsdale’s death Hester take off her scarlet letter however this letter already had a different meaning for her.*

Key words: *Sin, punishment, people, marriage, women, letter, family, revenge, guilt.*

Boston. Everything starts from here. A crowded people gathered in Massachusetts to be witnesses of punishment of young women who had a baby girl but whose paternity is unknown. Because of this society humiliated her and wanted to punish. Especially women of that time was too strict in the field of family matters, loyalty to husband no matter how is he. As Hester Prynne approaches the scaffold among the gathered people women were angered by her beauty and quite dignity. The authorities commands to confess the name of the father of child Pearl again and again. But she denies. Among the whole nation her husband Roger also was as part of a crowd and she notices him. When Roger sees the sin of her wife and about pregnancy through gossiping women, he angrily exclaims that the ashamed woman has to be detached for her sin and person who is responsible to the paternity of the baby should be also punished for his immoral act and says to find this person to himself.

In this statement you can easily notice how Roger abuses hurtfully. Three circumstances could be example of this. The first one is when Hester Prynne was emotionally abused by him. His rude words and terror towards her made Prynne fell the feeling of the fear. The second evident situation: Inattentiveness and neglect that he showed to Pearl. Even though Pearl is little and have no any sin she faced with difficulties of life too. And the last is

attitude towards to Dimmesdale. Between two of them was a war that could understand only both. So, he abused him mentally and physically.

At that time dominating role through the nation of the country was on the hands of the church. That's why questionnaire of Hester Prynne was held by Reverend John Wilson and minister of the church. Even though it was difficult to ask who is the father of baby but in the same moment knowing this made him feel the pain of his conscience. However he did. But Hester Prynne looking to her lover's eyes refuses tell the name of her infant's father. From this time the scarlett „A” letter hang on her and with her infant send to jail.

This situation is example of rude attitude and heavy punishment for one women. Here authors main point was to show beliefs of Puritan system and start enlightenment of hypocrisy in Puritan community. But inside Hester her own terms in her morality. Her heart and soul belongs only God not to individuals of Puritan society. Mainly, this exemplifies the word feminism which was far ahead of its time. Because in this society was patriarchal culture which rooted by the church's teachings who evaluated even women's heart.

After this incident Dimmesdale's health goes worse day by day. As Roger became a physician of town and contacting with him closely, suddenly he notices that the reason of his illness is unconfessed guilty. Inside of him shame and pain that nobody can see. So, here starts another side of horizon about this masterpiece.

Benjamin Kilborne [Benjamin Kilborne 2005] focused more in Dimmesdale's shame. He paused on internal shame dynamics and conflicts of him, which, comparing to visible letter „A” of Prynne, pay attention to what makes it unbearable and shame conflicts more tragic. So, what is the reason that makes Dimmesdale's shame intolerable? Kilborne links the word „unbearability” with the central importance of whole analytic work, and relates to intriguing perfect individuals, substructure of judgement what makes residents forget about their inside feelings. Also, this statement can open the opinion that can define shame like a fundamental reaction to „wrong feelings” or being feeble in front of the potency of it either go under deeper and deeper in strange emotion. [Wurmser's „The Power of the Inner Judge” 1993]

According to Kilborne Dimmasdale's shame is inexpressible and unalterable; the reason of this that this situation squeezes the life out of him day by day. Again Dimmasdale's shame, silent and devastating, it sears deep into the heart of his being. Even in the chest of his body there was a symbol of ashame. However, in the end of the book Dimmasdale replies to

the all questions of the whole local residents by admitting the sin that he did. So, with no painful feeling in his heart he dies on the arms of Hester.

„The scarlet letter was her passport into regions where other women dared not dread. Shame, Despair, Solitude. These had been her teachers''. [Nathaniel Hawthorne. „The Scarlett Letter''. p.18] Howthorne could show both sin and emphathy. Though Prynne has been isolated and punished for her fault, she accepts it as a history of her life.

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