

## ABSTRACT

Ivonne Muliawati H:

A Thesis

Analysis on Motives and Consequences of the Main Characters' Dilemmatic Decision Makings in Ryunosuke Akutagawa's *Kesa and Morito* and *Rashomon* and in Mori Ogai's *Takase Bune*

The short story's unity, density, and brevity are the primary motives for my choice of this literary genre. From all the stories that come from all around the world, I choose Japanese short story. Subjectively because they impress me much with their interesting themes and unique story-telling method, and objectively because along with some other critics, I believe them to be 'hidden beauties' that are currently less unknown compared to the Western Literature. From all the brilliant classical Japanese writers, I chose Ryunosuke Akutagawa for his original story-telling method and dedication in writing and Mori Ogai for his deep exploration in human nature as well as his acknowledged contribution to the Japanese literature. From Akutagawa, I chose *Kesa and Morito* for its exploration in the nature of men and *Rashomon* for its achievement in both literary and film-making world. From Mori Ogai, I chose *Takase Bune*, because the story offers an interesting moral topic on *euthanasia*, as well as a reflection on the aspects of life. The linking factor in these three stories is the main characters' dilemmatic situations. Morito has to choose between breaking his promise and committing murder, the samurai servant has to choose between stealing and starving to death, and Kiske has to choose between sparing his brother's pain and obeying the law. In this thesis, I will analyze the dilemmas and the choices, the motives, and the consequences of the choices. Since this analysis will concern much with the characters' moral principles and dilemmas, I choose to make an analysis concerning the motives and the consequences of their dilemmatic decision makings. I will make a literary approach with the literary devices of characterization and conflict, as well as some supporting concepts on motives and moral consequences. In my findings, I find that Morito's motives in *Kesa and Morito* are pride, cowardice, and hatred, while his motive of love is fake. His choice results in Kesa's death and him being a murderer. In *Rashomon*, the samurai servant's motives are egoism, hatred, and excuse. His choice brings an advantage for himself and harm to the old lady. In *Takase Bune*, Kiske's motives are compassion and pressure. His action leads to his imprisonment and his brother's death. Without the consideration of motives and consequences, I believe all the actions will be judged as 'morally wrong'. Thus, my final argument is that it is necessary to consider the factors of motives and consequences in making moral judgment toward other people's actions.

Key Words:

Morality, Dilemma, Motives, Consequences

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE.....	i
APPROVAL SHEET.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	iii
ABSTRACT.....	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vi
 CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.1. Background of the Study.....	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem.....	10
1.3. Purpose of the Study.....	11
1.4. Significance of the Study.....	11
1.5. Scope and Limitation.....	11
1.6. Methodology.....	12
1.7. Organization of the study.....	12
 CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
2.1. Literary Theories.....	13
2.1.1. Characterization.....	14
2.1.2. Conflict.....	16
2.2. Supporting Concepts .....	17
2.2.1. Concepts on Motives.....	18
2.2.1.1. Pride Motive.....	19
2.2.1.2. Cowardice Motive.....	19
2.2.1.3. Hatred Motive.....	20
2.2.1.4. Love Motive.....	21
2.2.1.5. Egoism Motive.....	22
2.2.1.6. Excuse Motive.....	23
2.2.1.7. Compassion Motive.....	24
2.2.1.8. Pressure Motive.....	25
2.2.2. Concepts on Moral Consequences.....	25
 CHAPTER 3: ANALYSIS ON THE MAIN CHARACTERS' DILEMMAS AND CHOICES, THEIR MOTIVES, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR CHOICES	
3.1. Morito's Dilemma, His Choice, His Motives, and the Consequences of His Choice in <i>Kesa and Morito</i> .....	30
3.1.1. Morito's Dilemma of Choosing Between Killing An Innocent Man and Breaking His Promise and His Choice of Killing Kesa's Husband.....	31
3.1.2. The Motives Behind Morito's Choice.....	32

3.1.3. The Consequences of Morito's Choice Toward Himself and Kesa.....	36
3.2. The Samurai Servant's Dilemma, His Choice, His Motives, and the Consequences of His Choice In <i>Rashomon</i> .....	39
3.2.1. The Samurai Servant's Dilemma of Choosing Between Stealing and Starving To Death and His Choice of Robbing the Old Lady.....	40
3.2.2. The Motives Behind the Samurai Servant's Choice.....	41
3.2.3. The Consequences of the Samurai Servant's Choice Toward Himself and the Old Lady.....	45
3.3. Kiskey's Dilemma, His Choice, His Motives, and the Consequences of His Choice In <i>Takase Bune</i> .....	46
3.3.1. Kiskey's Dilemma of Choosing Between Obeying the Law and Sparing His Brother Pain and His Choice of Helping His Brother Die.....	47
3.3.2. The Motives Behind Kiskey's Choice.....	50
3.3.3. The Consequences of Kiskey's Choice Toward Himself and His Brother.....	52
CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION.....	55
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	58
APPENDIX	
Biography.....	60
Synopsis.....	62
Mori Ogai's Note on <i>Takase Bune</i> .....	65