

Abstract

The study discusses the images of Victorian scientists presented by Herbert George Wells in *The Invisible Man* (1897), *The Island of Dr Moreau* (1896), *The Time Machine* (1895), and *The First Men in the Moon* (1901). The methodology used in the study is ecocriticism because the scientists are discussed in reference to their relations with nature. Some parts of the analysis are informed by the Human-Animal Studies (HAS) due to the fact that the scientists' decisions challenge the norms of both human and animal societies.

Chapter Two draws our attention to the concept of invisibility as a form of adaptability to the environment. The concept is looked at here from the cultural, social and psychological perspectives. Griffin, the central character of *The Invisible Man*, invents a serum which induces invisibility. His invention leads him to his own death because there is no antidote to limit its effects upon Griffin's body and psyche. His identity is no longer in harmony with his body, which results in his exclusion from the pastoral setting of Iping. As Griffin's body changes its consistency, he unites with the invisible sphere of the natural world.

The text analysed in Chapter Three is *The Island of Dr Moreau*. The analysis displays Moreau's intervention within the order of evolution and its consequences. Moreau makes alterations of the animal body possible, which is in line with the nineteenth-century belief that animals should be exploited for the commodities they provide without remorse. Moreau's experiments go beyond human knowledge and are not supported by genetic research. He uses science for his own enjoyment and, as a result, he is exterminated by nature itself.

Chapter Four examines the image of The Time Traveller, the central character of *The Time Machine*. He invents a machine which allows him to cross the time

limits and, as a result, he gets lost in time. He believes that our universe is a home to different types of species and that suitable conditions for life exist on the Earth beyond time and space. As a technically adept engineer, he designs a machine tolerant of different environmental extremes. His aim in life is to explore the natural world of unlimited expansion instead of contributing to the development of a capitalist society.

Wells's novella *The First Men in the Moon* comes under scrutiny in Chapter Five. The central characters of the story are Cavor and Bedford. They decide to explore the meaning of life beyond the Earth and they are off to see the Moon as a potentially habitable system. As a professional scientist, Cavor invents a substance which negates the pull of gravity. He is both hardworking and affluent. He is accompanied by Bedford, a failed business person, whose aim is to make a fortune out of his interstellar voyage.

The research methods adopted by the scientists are innovative and dangerous because thanks to them they achieve their personal goals and develop unusual qualities. Their research results in their transformations into beasts or eccentrics, whose thinking patterns go beyond social norms. Their experiments cause irreversible damage to their personalities and they are rejected by the society or undergo self-destruction.