



# Religion and Human in Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*: Critical Outlook

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**Abstract**— The present research is about a critical analysis of religion and human in Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*. In fact, the Christianity is one of the biggest and important religions in the world. Therefore it mainly deals with speech of God, based on the holy Bible. Despite the holiness of the Bible, It's not understood the same way by every reader. So, verbally, we talk about the same Christianity but with of different point of view. That difference between the predication of the same God's speech makes the believers to adopt different principles in the work of the Lord. All in all, several contradictions occurred. To clarify this fact, we have used an exploratory research. This analysis reveals that Christianity is universal and it is only the way and the means we use to benefit from the grace of God. Believers should recognize that God is one and the only one for all.



**Keywords**— Religion; Human ; Jeanette Winterson ; oranges are not the only fruit ; God , Christianity

**Résumé**— La présente recherche porte sur une analyse critique de la religion et de l'humain dans *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit* de Jeanette Winterson. En fait, le christianisme est l'une des religions les plus grandes et les plus importantes au monde. Il s'agit donc principalement de la parole de Dieu, basés sur la sainte Bible. Alors que, malgré le caractère sacré de la Bible, elle n'est pas comprise de la même manière par tous les lecteurs. Ainsi, verbalement, nous parlons du même christianisme mais avec un point de vue différent. Cette différence entre la prédication de la même parole de Dieu amène les croyants à adopter des principes différents dans l'œuvre du Seigneur. Au total, plusieurs contradictions sont apparues. Pour clarifier ce fait, nous devons utiliser une recherche exploratoire. À partir de cette analyse, il faut montrer que le christianisme devrait normalement être comme le même Dieu, la même parole dans un seul monde.

**Mots clés**— Religion; Humain ; Jeanette Winterson ; oranges are not the only fruit ; Dieu, Christianisme

## I. INTRODUCTION

*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winterson is a semi- autobiographical novel published in 1985 by Pandora Press. The current work focused on Critical Analysis of Religion and Human so, It explores the importance of the religion for the human and makes a

critical analysis of the way religion is misunderstood sometimes by people, who will bad inform and form the coming generations.

The present study is divided into three chapters. Section one is about the theoretical background of the study. It presents the way we have organised the work. More

precisely, it states out the problem, the significance of the study, the research purposes, the research methodology, the limit of the study. Finally, it gives details on the literature review. Section two presents a general overview on the novel. Clearly, it gives details on the author, the novel with an emphasis on the characters and their relationships, presents the general conceptions in the novel and finally presents the results of the different analysis performed. Section three lastly, not only makes an analysis of the novel by laying emphasis on an exploration of the critical analysis of religion and human in the novel but also, a general critical analysis has been drawn out and it presents the perspectives of the study.

## II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

### 2.1. Introduction to the Study

#### 2.1.1. Problem Statement

The problem that this research raises is to know the different reasons behind the choice of the Christianity like the mean focus although other unwished, crappies practices are occurred widespread in the novel. Think to some wise advices, the sharpening of this wonder brought us to engage in a decryption of the important of religion and its limits toward the development of human.

#### 2.1.2. Significance of study

The present project is significant in the logic that it can serve as a literary source for scholars and may be as an inspiration for some students while in search of writing their dissertation in the area of the British literature or civilization.

#### 2.1.3. Research purposes

This work arises the conscious of readers on religions, mainly the Christianity as a fact which can not only be spiritually a strong power to the personal and professional development when used positively but also, a catalysis of destruction for the human and the human psychology when used spuriously and hypocritically. The best way to take profit from it is in using of that religion wisely. For the professional reason, this work will help friends and British literature's lovers to enlarge their knowledge about other aspects of *Oranges Are Not Only Fruit*, which is certainly one of the best novel tackling religious problems and as a matter of fact, providing them with elements to debate and discuss more vividly on British literature and civilization.

#### 2.1.4. Research Methodology

To gather the needed data, we made an online research to have access to information on the author, the book and to

identify the different works that have been previously done on the subject. Secondly, we also used Literature research to broaden the data we had from the online research. After gathering the needed data, some analysis has been performed on the basis of the novel. The first analysis we performed is the stylistic analysis. The second analysis we performed is the Gustav Freytag's analysis.

#### 2.1.5. Limit of the study

The work is a personal view on religion and human that has been described in the novel. As such they still have many other aspect of the book that can be emphasized.

#### 2.1.6. Littérature review

The present study has to deal with the building roman genre mainly the semi-autobiographical category. The choice of this literary genre is not for free. But *Orange Are Not The Only Fruit* is neither a full aubiographical novel nor a full fictional novel. In fact, it deals apart with the life of the Jeanette Winterson and also some mythical intuitions have occurred that have no link with the Autor's real life. So, the the choice of the Semi-autobiographical genre for it's decryption.

## III. GENERAL OVERVIEW ON THE NOVEL

### 3.1. The author

Born on August 27, 1959 in Manchester, Jeanette Winterson is an English writer whose fame came with her first book, *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*, a semi-autobiographical novel about sensitive teenage girl rebelling against convention. Other novels explore gender polarities and sexual identity and later ones the relations between humans and technology. She broadcasts and teaches creative writing. She has won a Whitbread Prize for a first novel, a BAFTA Award for Best Drama, the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, the E.M Forster Award and the St. Louis Literary Award, and the Lambda Literary Award twice. She holds an Official of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Jeanette Winterson is not only a feminist writer but also, she is a great personality, leader in the British Empire as an OBE and CBE. This political function helps her to contribute in the development of the country. The fact here is to know how was she raised, formed, and educated since her childhood to be able to undertake this function as a woman that even a lot of British men didn't do.

#### 3.1.1. Childhood and school

Jeanette Winterson was born in Manchester and adopted by Constance and John William Winterson on January

1960. She grew up in Accrington, Lancashire, and was raised in the Elim Pentecostal Church. She was raised to become a Pentecostal Christian missionary, and she began evangelising and writing sermons at the age of six. By the age of 16, Jeanette Winterson had come out as a lesbian and left home. She soon after attended Accrington and Rossendale College, and supported herself at a variety of odd jobs while reading English Oxford University.

### 3.1.2. Early career

After she moved to London, Winterson wrote her first novel, *Oranges Are Not The Fruit*, which won the 1985 Whitbread Prize for the First Novel. Jeanette Winterson adapted it for television in 1990. Her novel „The Passion’ was set in Napoleonic Europe.

### 3.1.3. Personal Life & legacy

Jeanette was raised to be a missionary. This did and didn't work out. Discovering early the power of books, she left home at 16 to live in a Mini and get on with her education. After graduating from Oxford University, she worked for a while in the theatre and published her first novel at 25. *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit* is based on her own upbringing but using herself as a fictional character. Jeanette has also written children's books, non-fiction and screenplays. She is professor of New Writing at the University of Manchester. Jeanette lives in the Cotswold in a wood and in Spitalfields, London. She believes that art is for everyone and it is her mission to prove it.

Contrary to some children who earn legacies from their parents, Jeanette Winterson was not so lucky except the faith in Jesus Christ from her mother.

## 3.2. The Novel

### 3.2.1. General Conceptions in the Novel

*Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit* is a novel that tells many stories, but ultimately concerns itself with the very act of telling stories. The juxtaposition of legends and myths with the life of the main character, Jeanette, questions the reality of the stories told by the narrator. None of the stories can be verified with any fact; therefore they must all equally be accepted as fictions. "Oranges is the document, both true and false, which will have to serve for my life until I went to Oxford, and after that I daresay that whatever I tell you will be another document, one that is both true and false". She must both leave her home and leave her assumptions of how the world and she are defined.

### 3.3. Characters and their relationship

Generally, two main characters like Jeanette's mother and Jeanette are used to play the tale all other the novel plus 16 Other major characters

## 3.4. Structural and Stylistic Analyses of the Novel

### 3.4.1. Gustav Freytag's Analysis

Freytag's Pyramid is one of the oldest dramatic structures. Developed by Gustav Freytag in the mid-19th century, this structure has become so ubiquitous; many of the best writers have used it to write their own stories, even if they didn't know it was called Freytag's Pyramid. The Gustav Freytag's analysis is the analysis of the structure of the novel. This analysis is based on five elements, namely: the beginning, the rising action, the climax, the falling action and the resolution. Applied to seven parts of the novel plus introduction and resolution.

### 3.4.2. Stylistic Analysis of *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit*

Stylistic analysis of a novel involves the analysis of various styles used in language to drive the desired meaning or theme of given texts. It involves identifying the various ways in which authors of literary works or poets convey their message. The important object of the writing: Homosexuality in Christianity. This event is quiet enough to be analysed.

### 3.4.3. Figure of speech

A figure of speech is a word or phrase that possesses a separate meaning from its literal definition. In the book of Jeanette Winterson we have a lot of figure of speech so we we just enumerated some like: allegory, repetition, metaphor, irony, hyperbole, simile.

## IV. DISCUSSING RELIGION AND HUMAN AND PERSPECTIVES

### 4.1. Critical Exploration of Religion and Human.

The decryption of religion and human in the present novel involves first of all an

exploration of it. The opening of the novel starts with the Geneses, whose corpse will be used to illustrate the Christianity as the main focus in the novel. Winterson titles the eight chapters of her book after the first eight chapters of the Old Testament. Winterson's appropriation of the titles relates to her desire to illustrate the relativity and the subjectivity of various texts. At the same time, the themes of Winterson's chapters roughly correspond with the themes of the biblical books.

Based on that exploration, *Oranges* focused mainly on the Christianity and human. Even if some imaginary skid have been occurred as fictions in the book, the keys factors that well illustrate this aspect of the novel are not only its chapter's names and their contents comparatively to the messages of the holy Bible but also, the community's faith

in the Lord. Whereas, regarding to some characters attitude, all critic cannot be escaped.

## 4.2. Religion and Human

*Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winterson is one of the most popular British semi-autobiographical book. The novel is mainly about a lesbian girl who grows up in an English Pentecostal community. The present critical analysis is focused on the religion and human. *Oranges Are Not The only Fruit* started with Human life in society under the domination of Christianity. The unholy in Christianity is the core problem to be solved. The religion should be a root of the peace, the love, the compassion of each other among Human but the story illustrates the evils of both, first of all Jeanette's mother and who leads mistakenly Jeanette herself in the same kind of ungodliness. In fact, Jeanette's mother is a very dogmatist woman who "had never heard of mixed feeling" (Page17), except the holy speech of God. Whereas, Jeanette's mother is characterized by hypocrisy, unlovely toward her neighbors, disrespectful for the men and their valor in the society. She is the one of the most devout members of her congregation, but a close examination of her actions shows her religiousness does not parallel her sincere goodwill to others. Most obviously the lack of charity in her heart can be seen in the way that she treats Jeanette.

### 4.2.1. Personal Stand on Religion and Human

Christianity is an important religion in which the world have to trust because it deals with the speed of God based on the holly Bible. See all the miracles that God has been doing so far, there is no efficient argument anywhere to contradict his goodness. Whereas, there is no complete union among Christianity's churches. What is the source of several ambiguities.

## 4.3. Perspectives

As perspectives, we have to behave due to God's speech and principles in the Bible, objectively and no subjectively. It's to mean that Human beings have to keep the speech of the God in the holy Bible original without any modification as personal stand that can be published as an hypocritical truth. In the Bible of God, things have been already said down and that was that so, what we have just to do as Human beings is to meditate them well and behave correctly like it is recommended otherwise, our faith today will destroy the world later and from our generation to the next generations, the Christianity will become an important root of sin and evil in the World because it may totally focus on lies, personal stands and hypocrisies. The important f religion can be clarified in several domains so, social, intellectual and professional domains are mentioned.

### 4.3.1. Social domain

In social domain, the religion performs the compassion, the love, the moral to form a good human society to the humanity. Removing these concepts, the world will face a serious problem of racism, of situations of war frequently so that too much destructions may occur. It teaches also the general union among human beings. Judicially, Christianity is about to defend the human right.

### 4.3.2. Intellectual domain

Religion gives people something to believe in, provides a sense of structure and typically offers a group of people to connect with over similar believers. These facets can have a large positive impact on mental health. Religiosity reduces suicide rates and toxicomania. It contributes to the education of the children from childhood up to teenage age. Ritually, it helps people to cope with difficult life situation. Religion provides structure, regularity and predictability.

### 4.3.3. Professional domain

Concerning the professional domain, religion helps numerous human to define their carrier due to the role they play in the church so that they become famous singers, guitarists, middlemen.

## V. CONCLUSION

We use literature to explore the novel. After exploring and analyzing the novel, we discover that religion has numerous positives effects on human. The problem is that the recommendations on which the religion is based to be so important to human are bad predicted and understood. Otherwise, all the Christianity is worshiping the same God while the principles and the manners of viewing the world of each are sometime different. So, we assist some bad behavior from the members of the church of God. Through the study of the novel, the realities we perceived are the religion and human as root. The first root found in the book is hypocrisy in faith, and then followed other source, we identify from researches. The second root is the ineptly assignment on which Jeanette's mother rises Jeanette that will finally conduct her to lesbianism contrary to the church's goals and recommendations. Sometimes, religion appeared difficultly to be handled by human. So, we found wise to recommend some actions to be taken in the framework of handling it. The first action to be taken is to try to maintain the speech of God throughout the holy Bible safe, original and have a full faith in God. The second action is the to cultivate for the general love, compassion, help of each other and avoid the racism, the jealousy, the hypocrisy all other the world by knowing that the world is only one like the Bible recommended.



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