

Darwin and darwinian influence on Thomas Hardy (Jude The Obscure)

Charles Darwin's theories upon Evolution had a great impact on the scientific world in the nineteenth century, and contributed to change with respect to mentalities in a well-established Victorian society. He is mostly remembered for his conception of Evolutionism based on his theory of Natural Selection, which radically transformed the scientific point of view on the immutability of species.

Extended to the human race, his writings gave a new perception of the role of human beings in nature, and in society. The influence of his theories can still be noticed today.

Why his ideas raised such a debate around the origins of man and what repercussions they had on nineteenth-century mentalities shall be the leading questions of the debate. It is important to go back to the sources of the process of Natural Selection to better understand the impact it had, which is partly revealed by the mirrors of the mood of the writers of the period. Indeed, they represent one of the groups of artists who can convey ideas upon the atmosphere of a particular period. We can assert that Darwin's first book, *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life* (1859) deeply marked the nineteenth century and thus influenced writers, consciously or unconsciously,

Thomas Hardy's novel, *Jude the Obscure* (1895) was contemporaneous with the emergence of Darwinism and a realist novel.

Jude the Obscure is a novel for adults. It is interesting to find what themes are dealt with by the writer and the links with Darwin's theories. Civilization and literary analysis hint at the social and scientific impact of Darwinism on Victorian society, and its influence on nineteenth-century literature.

First of all, Darwin's concept of Natural Selection. His studies and family environment led him to be a naturalist his trip on the *Beagle* proved to have a decisive role in his conception of biological and geological phenomenon.

According to Darwinian theories, love is a criterion as important as sexual attraction for reproduction and it is scientifically considered as a necessary element for the survival of the offspring. This feeling maintains the couple together and above all reinforces the desire of protection of the children, creating a stronger community, since the individuals take care of each other.