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Compare and Contrast the Use of Romanticism and Realism  
in “Of Mice and Men” and “The Princess Bride”

Romanticism and Realism are the expressions used by narrators in their stories to portray some useful meaning of the story. It explains the message that how characters follow romanticism but with time realism hits that character and situations get changed. "Of mice and men" and "the princess bride" are two stories that are based on romanticism and realism. The main purpose of the essay is to do compare and contrast two stories the way authors used romanticism and realism in the story. It is important as it will help to apply critical approaches to literature.

The novel "of mice and men" was written by John Steinbeck published in 1937. The story is based on realism that is the real condition of the world. The author narrated the story around the condition of the great depression (John Steinbeck). People during great depression faced so many issues especially workers. On the other side, "The Princess Bride" was written by William Goldman published in 1973. The story is based on romanticism that is elements of fantasy, fairy tale, comedy, and drama is used to develop story plot (Goldman). Therefore, the main difference between the two stories is the use of romanticism and realism where one story is totally based on the reality of the world while other has an element of fantasy and fairy tale.

In the story "of mice and men," realism was used by explaining the situation of the workers during the great depression. During these days capitalists and upper class exploited the workers as there was the least employment. In the other story, few elements of realism can be observed that is love. The relationship between Wesley and Buttercup is based on realism that how people fall in love and make promises for their future. However, the main story revolved around fantasy. Another similarity between the two stories is the relationship between the hero and heroine. In “of mice and men” friendship relationship between George Milton and Lennie, also between the husband-wife relationship of Curly his wife while in "The Princess Bride" love relationship between buttercup and Wesley, and the married relationship between buttercup and price. These relationships showed realism in both the stories by portraying various situations and behavior for each other.

The author portrayed realism tradition on the basis of a real-life visit to migrant camps and used slang dialogue, nomadic, plausible events, and limited life of workers in “of mice and men”. On the other hand, "The Princess Bride" is more or less based on romanticism in which buttercup lovers go to use his luck and die. Later on, he came alive and gave a completely new story for his survival then they both face imprisonment. The whole story moves from one fantasy point to another. There was less realistic behavior that is buttercup fall in love with one man and then gets ready to marry a price. When she found her first love she again decides to leave prince (a luxurious life) to spend her life with a companion of the pirate. These elements cannot be seen in real life.

Through analysis of two stories, it can be concluded that the story "The Princess Bride" is completely based on the fairy tale, drama, and fantasy while other stories that are “of mice and men” are based on realism. Realism is based on the era of the great depression that affects the lives of many people and they suffer a lot to get jobs. While romanticism based story is moved around the love story of a lady with a boy who gets disappeared and then comes again in the middle of the story.

**Work Cited**

Goldman, William. *The Princess Bride: S. Morgenstern’s Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure*. Reprint edition, Harcourt, 2007.

John Steinbeck. *Of Mice And Men*. 1937. *Internet Archive*, http://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.350671.