



HEDONIST'S HIDDEN FEAR IN OSCAR WILDE'S NOVEL "THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY"

Reny Dwi Sulistiyani ✉

Jurusan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

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Abstract

This study is about hidden fear which is felt by the hedonist main character represented in the novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray". The objectives are to find out how hidden fear described in the novel, the reasons why the main character hid his fear, and how the hidden fear regarded as hedonist's fear. This research is descriptive qualitative. The data were taken in the form of phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and dialogues from the novel. They were gathered by reading, identifying, classifying, selecting, analyzing, and reporting. Sigmund Freud's theory of Id, Ego and Superego was used in this study. The results of this study are 1) life is a choice, when you choose the right choice you will get the rewards, but if you choose the wrong choice, prepare yourself for getting punishment. 2) Although it surely has reasons, breaking the rules and committing crimes for hiding fear are unforgiveable. 3) Surroundings and social intercourse could influence people's character. As for the further researchers, that this study can be used as one of the references and hopefully, the causes and effects of being hedonist is going to be the next title for the future research.

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✉ Alamat korespondensi:

Gedung B3 Lantai 1 FBS Unnes

Kampus Sekaran, Gunungpati, Semarang, 50229

E-mail: reny_girlsyans@yahoo.com

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INTRODUCTION

The Earth is a place for living. Animals, plants and human are growing and proliferating and their existence construct what so called society. Human cannot live without animals and plants, so we need mutual life. Human sometimes overact or do something redundantly without considering if their variety acts, especially in finding happiness or getting any pleasure endanger the existence of living things. For example, illegal logging, orangutan and whale hunting, waste disposal, etcetera. They are ones of the ways of getting pleasure in life, but people never think that those things defacement of their own body. They only think that they are the ways of enjoying life. Another example is free sex which doers do not think consequences they will get, such as AIDS. They only think the pleasure they will get by doing those things.

Just like what has mentioned above, they are ones of the examples of hedonism which some people support. Hedonists never think about others whether what they have done hurt others or not. The only thing they are thinking about is just their own pleasure. They will think that fulfilling their pleasure is something should be done first than anything else.

At the beginning, hedonism born in Europe, but it has already spread out widely throughout countries including Indonesia. Most of the pleasure-seekers (hedonists) are teenagers who live in the country which had been influenced by hedonism, but it does not rule out the possibility that adults are part of them. There are some more examples of hedonism, such as party in the club, getting drunk, taking drugs, free sex, New Year celebrations, and birthday celebrations. By doing those things, they will get pleasure. Why pleasure is so important for hedonists? It is because pleasure of life is what human are looking for in life. Enjoying life with any kinds of pleasure without having to be

overshadowed by fear is what we all want. However, it is possible to happen, because fear is part of human being and can appear in anyone, anytime and anywhere.

Fear cannot be predicted and appears automatically. Why does it say so? Let me give some examples. When people are at home alone or in the dark or lonely or scary place, the feeling of fear will appear itself. Why? It is because they will be thinking of ghost. They are afraid that the ghost will appear and frighten them. When people see person they are afraid of, they will hide or run away from him/her. When people who are scared of height ride hot-air balloon, the feeling of fear will appear itself. They will be sweating, shaking or crying. That is why fear can appear in everyone, no matter where and when it is.

In another word, it can be said that fear is a feeling of worried about menace of future or in thinking that something will go bad in the future. For example, fear of being old, fear of death, fear that cannot get good mark in examination, fear that cannot do anything, etc.

In my opinion, fear can be expressed with actions, words, screams, facial expressions, and may be tears. Some people can hide their fear so others will not know that they are afraid of certain things, but some are not. However, hiding a fear will be very hard to do because feeling cannot be hidden. It will emerge someday, when they feel fear of something. We will never be able to hide feeling somehow, because it can be seen through our eyes.

DISCUSSION

How Hidden Fear Described in the Oscar Wilde's Novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray"

Fear is an emotion that everybody can feel because of the worries about the consequences of the bad action she/he has done without the exception of the main character in the novel, Dorian Gray. Fear

which was experienced by Dorian Gray could be assumed as worries he felt and kept in his mind only.

The beginning of Dorian Gray's fear was because of the alteration of the portrait painted by Basil, "*the expression looked different*" (datum number 45) shows that the first alteration of the portrait was the face expression. The portrait was made perfectly with the beautiful smile of Dorian Gray at first time, and then changed into smile of cruelty, as shown in the expression "*there was a touch of cruelty in the mouth*" (datum number 46). The alteration showed the bad side of Dorian Gray's soul, as the reflection of the sin of his mistakes and evils he did. Dorian Gray's first mistake was his cruel treatment towards Sibyl Vane, his love.

Dorian Gray and Sibyl Vane was talking in the back-stage after a drama performance which performed by Sibyl Vane in one night. Dorian was so disappointed and angry because the performance was so bad. It is because that night Sibyl Vane did not do her role well just like she did in her previous drama performances which made Dorian Gray felt in love with her. Sibyl Vane was nervous when Dorian Gray came to see her performance that night because of her love to him. At that night, Sibyl Vane could not focus on the acting of her role and could not do it properly so it made Dorian Gray and other audiences disappointed. The angry and disappointed Dorian Gray vented his anger on her with hard words.

"*You have killed my love*" (Datum number 43) shows the expression that he was really disappointed and angry at Sibyl Vane. She had made him lost is love towards Sibyl, the girl who had conquered him with her expertise in acting. Dorian Gray's disappointment and anger can be seen in his expression which was saying "*A third-rate actress with a pretty face*" (Datum number 44) to Sibyl Vane. In reality, when someone is falling in love and getting blind of it, she/he will be so sensitive even to the unimportant

and trivial things which are considered as a treachery. Just like what was happening to Sibyl Vane, Dorian Gray's hard words and bad manner were considered as treachery of love in Sibyl Vane's mind. Dorian Gray, the person who used to love her so much turned out hate her very much. That is the reason why Sibyl Vane felt so sad and disappointed and then committed suicide because she thought that Dorian Gray betrayed her love.

Because of Dorian's rude words towards Sibyl, she was broken heart. Because Dorian Gray betrayed her, she had chosen to end her life by committing suicide. For Sibyl, Dorian Gray whom she used to love had betrayed her, she had no reason to stay alive. "*I have no doubt it was not an accident*" (Datum number 55) explains clearly that Sibyl Vane died not because of an accident but committing suicide. It is reaffirmed by the statement "*I should fancy it was prussic acid, as she seems to have died instantaneously*" (Datum number 56) is showing that Sibyl Vane died because of consuming the toxic. The phrase "*prussic acid*" can be assumed as hydrogen cyanide, colorless substance which can kill people in second that is shown by the word "*instantaneously*" that is why hydrogen cyanide can be used as a toxic with its lethal nature.

Being the reason of Sibyl Vane's committing suicide was the first mistake which Dorian did that made the alteration of his portrait, because he did curse towards the portrait when Basil had finished it in the first place that he would give his soul to the portrait to remain young and the portrait must be the one who must get old and ugly, where he could not tell and explain to Lord Henry. It is shown by the monologue of Dorian Gray "*Suddenly something happened that made me afraid. I can't tell you what it was, but it was terrible*" (Datum number 58). The word "*something*" is the alteration of Dorian Gray's portrait which represents his mistake towards Sibyl Vane. A portrait which must not alter suddenly altered and became very

bad portrait that is shown by the expression “*terrible*”. The word “*terrible*” has two meanings, first is very bad, it means that the picture in the portrait was really bad and ugly. Second is as reminder for Dorian Gray to his bad attitude and manner, mistakes and sins. This frightening thing which made Dorian Gray felt afraid so he could not show and tell it to anybody, and it included his best friend Lord Henry.

Another mistake that Dorian Gray did and also the worse act was killing his best friend, Basil Hallward brutally, as stated in the citation below,

He rushed at him, and dug the knife into the great vein that is behind the ear, crushing the man’s head down on the table, and **stabbing again and again**. (Datum number 79)

The citation above showed how Dorian Gray killed Basil Hallward. Expression “*stabbing again and again*” affirmed how brutal he killed his best friend. Besides killed Basil Hallward, Dorian Gray also left out his death body with a help from Campbell, a chemist, as shown in the citation below,

As soon as Campbell had left, he went upstairs. There was a **horrible smell of nitric acid** in the room. But the thing that had been sitting at the table was gone. (Datum number 84)

The expression “*a horrible smell of nitric acid*” shows that Campbell destroyed Basil Hallward’s death body used chemical, so the death body had gone for sure without leaving anything but the smell of the used chemical. The citation above shows how strong the chemical was. The brutal and inhumanity act of Dorian Gray that he had done to his best friend shows that Dorian really wanted to hide his evil from the society. The destruction of Basil Hallward’s death body can be assumed as an act to clean the vestige of the murder he had done, so none would know an evil he did. Although Campbell knew it, he could not tell anybody because

Dorian had threatened him, as shown in the citation of Dorian Gray’s monologue below,

“If you don’t help me, I must send it. If you don’t help me, I will send it. **You know what the result will be.**” (Datum number 81)

The quotation above is a monologue of Dorian Gray when he explained to Campbell why he must help him and did not give Campbell any choice. The repetition of Dorian’s words show that like or not, Campbell must help Dorian Gray. In addition, the expression “*You know what the result will be*” shows that Campbell would regret if he refused to help Dorian Gray. The pronoun “*you*” refers to Campbell. In the citation above, it seems that Dorian gave Campbell but it is not. Dorian was just trying to threaten Campbell, it means that he did not give Campbell any choice. Threatening someone to do something bad is an evil to do. Since Dorian threatened Campbell to destroy Basil Hallward’s death body, it can be said as Dorian mistake.

It was not the only mistake or evil Dorian Gray had done, his life-style was also bad. Since Dorian Gray knew and got along with Lord Henry, Dorian became easily influenced by Lord Henry’s words. Lord Henry always talked about the life that Dorian Gray could have because he had the most precious asset, his beauty. Lord Henry taught him how to exploit what others did not have, the beauty, and taught him how to enjoy the life. Sex, making love and have fun, are the ways to enjoy life, as stated in the citation below,

“They make one believe in the reality of the things we all **play** with, such as romance, passion, and love.” (Datum number 59)

The citation above is the monologue of Lord Henry when he was talking to Dorian Gray, about life in the world he lived which was full of love, sex and passion. The expression “*play*” can be interpreted as an expression which represents pleasure, such

as love, sex and fulfillment of passion because he believed that human lives in this world just once, so he must fill it with interesting and pleasant things. Like which has been stated in the citation "*I think I shall join you at the Opera, Harry. I feel too tired to eat anything. What is the number of your sister's box?*" (Datum number 61). The citation is the monologue of Dorian Gray who had been influenced by Lord Henry's words about life according to his opinion, so he began to follow Lord Henry's life-style.

When someone does a mistake/sin, he must know already that there will be consequences for what she/he has done, such as get punishment, either physical or non-physical one. The punishment can be worldly punishment where people will be the judges. Like, in prison or torturing. Beside those punishments, there is a non-physical punishment, like excommunicated. The fear that people would recognize his mistakes and sins that made him tried so hard to hide and cover them up so people who amaze him would not know and punish him, and he would not be ashamed of it. Dorian Gray never told others about his fear, he just kept it in his mind so just he himself who knew it. That is why his fear can be assumed as hidden fear.

Just like what I have explained above that Dorian Gray's fear is the fear of recognizing by people about his mistakes and sins which clearly represented by the portrait of himself. It does not make sense that a portrait can represent someone's soul, but it happened to Dorian Gray. His portrait altered going along with the evils/sins he had been doing.

Another citation is the monologue of Basil Hallward "*Christ! What a thing I must have workshipped! It has the eyes of a devil*" (datum number 78) which can be interpreted that the portrait did really change. In addition, the expression "*eyes of a devil*" can be assumed that Dorian Gray had really done evil acts. The author's narration "*The*

thing was still loathsome—more loathsome" (datum number 90) shows that the alteration of the portrait was really terrible. The citation shows the last form and image of the portrait of Dorian Gray. The expression "*more loathsome*" represents how terrible and disgusting the portrait, which also shows how many evils he had done and how bad he was.

The alteration of his portrait which made him felt afraid of the people's possibility of the recognizing about his portrait and they would know how evil he was since the sins of his evils shown by the portrait. It included the suicide's incident of Sibyl Vane, the murder of Basil Hallward, his life-style, etceteras, so he decided to hide everything, hiding his evils which were his own fear. Even he himself did not want to see the portrait's alteration. That is why he covered his portrait and hid it in the place where none knew it but him. As stated in the citation of author's narration "*No one could see it. He himself would not see it. Why should he watch the hideous corruption of his soul? He kept his youth—that was enough*" (datum number 73). Therefore, the fear he felt was called hidden fear.

Dorian Gray had fear about people will find out his evil. So, he thought about the way how he killed the feeling and then tried to realize it. However, he found the wrong ways to do it. In this case, the *Superego* was not working, because it could not control the thought of Dorian who wanted to break the rule and break the principle of perfection which the *Superego* is said to obey the principle of perfection. All he did was all to get pleasure just like what his *Id* wanted. It is because the *Id* has pleasure principle which must be fulfilled by the *Ego*. In this case, it can be said that Dorian Gray's bad behavior, actions and manner, such as saying bad and rude words to Sibyl Vane which made her killed herself, murdering Basil Hallward, destroying Basil's death body, threatening Alan Campbell

which made him did bad thing to help Dorian (destroying Basil's death body), free sex, alcohol, drugs and cigarette, can be assumed as the *Ego* which he did because of he had to fulfill the *Id's* order. We all know that killing person is a greatest crime, we must not do it, because it will break the rule norm and rule in society and country as well, and even God's rule (if you believe in God). However, Dorian really broke the rules which has been made and existed already.

Reasons Dorian Gray Hides His Fear in Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray"

The fear felt by Dorian Gray is the same as other people's feeling, because human being was born with many feelings, one of them is fear. In the previous sub-chapter has discussed how hidden fear described in Wilde's novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray". This sub-chapter is going to discuss the reasons why Dorian Gray as the main character in Wilde's novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" hides his fear.

Most people try to hide their fear from others because they who know someone's fear usually will try to frighten. For example, if someone is scared of ghost, he will pretend that he is the bold one so his friends will not frighten them. It is the same as what Dorian Gray felt. He hid his fear to keep his image in front of people around him so it would not be the bad one. Dorian believed if people knew that he was a bad guy, they would turn to hate him. Dorian did not want it happened, so he tried so hard to hide his mistakes which also his sins from society so they would keep loving him.

The expression "*The portrait must be hidden away at all costs. He could not run such a risk of discovery again. It had been mad of him to have allowed the thing to remain, even for an hour in a room to which any of his friends had access*" (Datum number 69) is the author's narration about Dorian's thought. The expression shows that Dorian did not want everybody saw and looked at his portrait which was

showing the badness of his soul because of the mistakes he had done. The sentence "*The portrait must be hidden away*" shows the necessity for hiding his portrait. No more reasons for showing it to others. It was because he did not want to take a risk if people found out the secret behind the portrait which is shown by the phrase "*risk of discovery again*" so he must hide it in a place where other people could not find and see it anymore, including his friends. He did so because if people found out his portrait, they would see his bad side and ugliness. As if it happened so, it goes without saying that people would turn to hate him. It is because people adored his beauty to much. That was why he was very popular in his society.

The expression "*hide something that had a corruption of its own*" (datum number 70) explains clearly that Dorian Gray hid his portrait because it had altered. If other people recognized the alteration, they would ask him why it has altered and Dorian did not want it happened. These phrases *worse than the corruption of death*" (datum number 70) shows how bad the alteration of the portrait which represented Dorian mistakes and sins. A phrase "*breed horrors*" (datum number 70) means that the portrait really showed his bad side, "*mar its beauty and eat away its grace*" (datum number 70) means that the portrait was no longer beautiful as Basil Hallward painted it in his studio and it means that the portrait already altered, and "*defile it, and make it shameful*" (datum number 70) can be interpreted that the portrait represented his shame because it had altered so bad and if other people saw it, then they would sneer at Dorian Gray, so he would be embarrassed. In addition, another interpretation of the citation is showing Dorian's embarrassing acts which he had done. The sentence "*his sins would be to the painted image on the canvas*" (datum number 70) shows that the portrait really represented Dorian's sins because it was the reflection of the badness of his soul by seeing his portrait.

The narration of the author about Dorian's thought "*Was the world going to be shown his secret? Were people to gape at the mystery of his life? That was impossible*" (datum number 67) which is quoted is another explanation about the reasons why Dorian Gray hid his portrait. The phrase "*his secret*" and "*the mystery of his life*" tells that the portrait kept his secret of life. The portrait had changed because of the mistakes he committed to do, and the portrait became seriously ugly as it represented Dorian Gray's soul. According to the citation mentioned, it can be assumed that Dorian Gray did not want to loss his popularity. If his secret was seen by other people and they gape at the mystery of his life, they, who adored his beauty, would go away and Dorian would loss his admirers. Another citation which also shows the worry and fear of Dorian Gray that becomes the reasons he hid any kind of evidences which could show how bad Dorian Gray was is stated below,

"The man upstairs will not go away. He is sitting at the table with bowed head and outstretched arms. Alan! Alan! If you don't come to my assistance I am ruined. Why, they will hang me, Alan! Don't you understand? They will hang me for what I have done" (datum number 80)

The monologue was taken from the dialogue of Dorian Gray with Alan Campbell. The expression "*The man upstairs will not go away*" refers to the death body of Basil Hallward who had been murdered by Dorian Gray. The citation also shows how evil Dorian was. Murdering is the most evil thing to be done because taking someone's life is totally not one's authority. By murdering someone has disobeyed not only the rules and norms in society but also God's rule who gives life. Dorian Gray had murdered, so he wanted to throw the evidence away somehow, in this case was Basil Hallward's death body. Thus, he needed Alan Campbell's help. It was done because Dorian Gray did not want to be

punished and lost his good reputation in society. It is strengthened by the expression "*I am ruined*" and the repetition of the sentence "*they will hang me*" which also shows the punishment he would get was sentence to die by hanging because of murdering someone.

From the explanation above, the statements "did not want to lose his good reputation in society" and "did not want to anyone know about the crimes he did, so he would not get any punishment" can be interpreted as the *Id*. Dorian Gray wanted to keep his good reputation, popularity and status in society so he tried hard to fulfill it. Once again, here the *Superego* did not work, because in fulfilling the *Id*, the *Ego* could not be controlled by the *Superego*, the rules and norms of society. It is just the same as in the reality, people always try to keep their good reputation, popularity and status in society somehow. They do not care whether it is using good ways by doing positive things or bad ways by lying and doing other negative things.

The Hidden Fear Regarded as the Hedonist's Fear in Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray"

Every human being was born with many feelings and emotion. One of them is fear related to hedonist. If we talk about hedonist, we will directly think about pleasure and satisfaction because hedonist is someone who always looking for pleasure and satisfaction in life.

Dorian Gray, the main character of the novel entitled *The Picture of Dorian gray* glorifies his beauty more after Lord Henry tells him about the benefit of having beauty. When people see beauty of someone, they will love him because when people see the beauty of something or someone, they will feel happy. Beauty can make people happy, not only for they who have it, but also people who see it because everybody wants to have beauty in their life. Since beauty is

not everlasting thing, they will be very happy if they have it although it is just for some years because when they get older, the beauty itself will disappear. Moreover, when Lord Henry said to Dorian the benefit of having beauty and charm like him, Dorian became proud of himself. According to Lord Henry's mindset, beauty can give everything to the owner, such as pleasure, satisfaction and wonderful life. In short, beauty can be a weapon of getting pleasure in life of a hedonist.

"When your youth goes, your beauty will go with it" (datum number 16) can be meant that do your will, do everything, find pleasure while you have the chance, while you have youth. It is strengthened by the expression "realize your youth while you have it" (datum number 17). It is what Lord Henry thought about the benefit of having beauty and hedonism. More beauty he has, more wonderful life he will get. It can be interpreted that in hedonist world beauty and wealth are everything. It is because what people believe are what they see. If you have beauty and wealth, do not be afraid of anything, just do whatever you want to. It is because you have them as your weapons, so you will not regret when you get old.

Another expression that shows the hedonism in the novel is "Live the wonderful life that is in you! Let nothing be lost upon you. Be always searching for new sensations. Be afraid of nothing.... A new Hedonism—that is what our century wants" (datum number 19) The citation can be interpreted that new hedonism meant by Lord Henry is to find pleasure by making the best use of your beauty, so you will never lose any pleasure in your life. Expression "wonderful life" and "new sensations" can be interpreted as life which is fulfilled by the pleasure and satisfaction, a life of hedonist. The statement "Don't squander the gold of your days, listening to the tedious, trying to improve the hopeless failure, or giving away your life to the ignorant, the common, and the vulgar" (datum number 18)

shows that Dorian should not waste his life where there were so many pleasant things ahead which he could get. The citation "You might be its visible symbol" (datum number 20) can be interpreted that hedonism lives inside him, because what Dorian had was hedonism. Another expression by Lord Henry "we never get back our youth" (datum number 21) shows that youth will never come back, if Dorian wanted to do something he wanted to do but he did not, it goes without saying that he would regret it when he got old. It means that if someone wants to do something, like party, drunk, drugs, sex, and everything that gives pleasure, but she/he does not do it, she/he will regret it for sure. It is just the same as he lets his life which should be pleasant but ends unpleasantly. The strengthened statement "Youth! Youth! There is absolutely nothing in the world but youth" (datum number 22) can be interpreted that youth is very meaningful so neither miss nor waste it while you have it. Do what your heart says so you will not regret it one day in the future, do it now while you have chance because it will not come twice.

The citation of author's narration "Eternal youth, infinite passion, pleasure subtle and secret, wild joy and wilder sins—he was to have all these things" (datum number 62) can be said that those are who hedonists have. The pronoun "he" refers to Dorian Gray, it means that Dorian Gray was a hedonist. The phrases "Eternal youth" means that Dorian was still a boy and handsome, "infinite passion" means that Dorian had many wonderful things and wills he wanted to do, "pleasure subtle and secret" means that Dorian had wills to get pleasure although he disobeyed the norms and rules in society, and "wild joy and wilder sins" means that Dorian still had a chance to get any kind of joy which other people probably could not get it though Dorian did anything to get pleasure although he broke the norms and rules in society which meant mistakes, since

it was mistake, it was sin as well. It also happens in real world, hedonist also exist in reality. They always enjoy themselves to find pleasure without thinking whether or not what they do harms others or breaks the norms and rules. They only think about getting pleasure only.

The data mentioned and explained in this sub-chapter was telling about hedonist and hedonism. The expression "*The true mystery of the world is the visible*" (datum number 15) explains everything. "*The visible*" here can be everything. According to the subject of this study, it was beauty. People who have beauty can get everything they want. Beauty can bewitch people since it represents loveliness. They, people who have beauty can give happiness or joy to other people, and themselves as well. In addition, happiness, joy, pleasure and satisfaction cannot be got just by having beauty. They, people who want to get happiness, joy, pleasure and satisfaction, need money. In short, people who can get happiness, joy, pleasure and satisfaction, must be rich and have lots of money.

This study talked about fear of human. The main character of Oscar Wilde's novel "*The Picture of Dorian Gray*" called Dorian Gray was the object of this study. Dorian Gray was assumed as a hedonist who always searched for pleasure, though breaking the norms and rules, so he tried to hide his mistakes from society. He was afraid if society knew they would give him punishment and hate him, so he did everything to hide his fear. That is why the fear in this study called hidden fear.

CONCLUSION

Fear is a feeling that all of human being has been given since they were born, although they have different action to express the fear. Dorian Gray, the main character in the Oscar Wildes's novel "*The Picture of Dorian Gray*" tried hard to hide his

fear. He did everything to protect himself from the fear which represented his sins and shame. His fear was caused by doing crime, because he broke the rules of God and society. Dorian tried to keep it from everyone else and hid it, so he would feel save. Although it surely has reasons, breaking the rules and committing crimes for hiding fear are unforgiveable.

Dorian Gray hid his fear because his surrounding forced him to do so. It was because he wanted to have and keep his good reputation, popularity and status in society, and to keep having those things, he did everything including bad ways, such as lying or being a hypocrite. Another reason was because of maintaining his status in society. The character here was the descendant of a Lord named Kelso, it goes without saying that the character was a blue blood. That was why as a Lord descendant he wanted to look perfect in society, because he already had beauty and wealth, he wanted everything in him look as perfect as his good appearance. Living just once in this world, Dorian Gray wanted to try everything he wanted to. He thought pleasure was the only thing he wanted to get. He did everything he thought could give him joy and satisfaction, such as get drunk, free sex, smoking, etceteras. Dorian's life style showed that he was a person who always searched for pleasure, in another word a hedonist.

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