



## CATHOLICISM AND CULTURE IMPACT IN GREENE'S NOVEL 'BRIGHTON ROCK'

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### Abstract

*This research aims to discuss the impact of Catholicism and culture in Greene's novel 'Brighton Rock'. There are four objectives for this research that are to what degree Catholicism has an impact in the novel, to what degree culture has its impact in the novel, which is stronger the religion impact or the culture one, and finally the reason of making Greene uses these two impacts. The research is divided into four parts, the first one gives a brief summary of the novel. The second discusses the impact of religion based on the eight aspects of Catholicism. The third discusses the impact of culture based on the seven aspects of culture, and finally the conclusion. Through the novel, one can figures that Greene uses the impact of culture to support his religious theme which means the impact of religion in the novel is stronger than the culture one. Greene has a crucial message to send throughout Brighton Rock that God's mercy is upon everything, so no one has the right to judge others' faith.*

**Keywords:** - Catholicism, culture, Brighton Rock



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### Introduction

Brighton Rock is a about a seventeen-year-old boy 'Pinkie' that leads a gang. Pinkie and his gang kill Hale 'Fred' who plays a role in killing their pervious leader Kite. Spicer, a member in the gang, is responsible for distributing Hale's cards in order not to discover his death, does a mistake by leaving one of the cards at Snow's.

Rose, a sixteen young girl, works at Snow's. She has a good memory for faces. Thus, she knows that Spicer is not Hale. Pinkie goes to Snow's to take the card left by Spicer, however, Rose notices his hand under the table. She tells him she gets the card, and the one who puts the card is not the same person that appears in the news paper. To be in the save side, Pinkie starts taking Rose out. Later, he decides to marry her to bribe her silence, so she will not be able to witness against him. Pinkie also kills Spicer after he feels that the later is afraid and dangerous. Pinkie plans to let Rose kill herself to get peace and live his life freely.

However, there is a woman in her thirties 'Ida' who has been with Hale the moments before his death. Though it is announced that Hale has died naturally, Ida can't believe it. She

starts investigating. Thus, she discovers that Hale is led to death. Later, she discovers that Pinkie and his gang are the ones who lead Hale to death. She also wants to save Rose because she knows that Pinkie is going to kill her. When Rose is about shooting herself, Ida arrives. Rose feels that it is her good luck, so she throws the gun away. Pinkie gets angry and feels that he is in danger. He opens the vitriol bottle that he carries with him all the time. The police man broke it, so Pinkie is burnt. He, finally, throws himself into the sea.

### **Religion Impact in Brighton Rock**

Though Greene says that he writes *Brighton Rock* as a detective story, many critics sees it as a religious one. Greene writes in *'Ways of Escape'*: "Brighton Rock I began in 1937 as a detective story and continued" (cited in Sconce's article, 2007)<sup>1</sup>. However, by reading the novel deeply, one can notice the impact of religion in it. It plays an important role not only on the characters but also on the events that happen throughout the whole novel. Stratford (1967:166) points out that Brighton Rock is "almost belligerent religious in theme" (cited in Cloete's article, 1998)<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, McGowan (1955:27) claims that "he [Greene] reached the distinction of good and evil from right and wrong" (cited in Cloete's article, 1998)<sup>3</sup>.

Therefore, the researcher is going to analyze the impact of religion in Brighton Rock based on the eight aspects of Catholicism that are beliefs, myths and sacred story, sacred texts and other religion writings, rituals, symbols, social structure of the Catholic church, ethical principles, religious experience and spirituality.

#### **1. Beliefs**

The three main characters believe in something. Rose and Pinkie are Roman Catholic while Ida doesn't believe in any religion. She believes in ghosts and the Ouija board. The other minor characters such as Cubitt, Spicer, Dallow and Mr. Prewitt's belief is not clearly shown, however, they use some religion expressions.

Pinkie the main character is a Roman Catholic. He tells that to Rose. When Rose shows him the end of a string of beads, he asks her whether she is a Roman or not and tells her "I'm one too" (BR: 53). However, Pinkie believes only in Hell. He tells Rose "These atheists, they don't know nothing. Of course there's Hell. Flames and damnation" (BR:53) Thus, when Rose tells him "and Heaven too" (BR:54) He says "Oh, maybe, maybe" (BR:54) This shows that Pinkie is not sure of Heaven. He only believes in Hell and behaves based on that. He does not give himself a chance to think of heaven or to behave in a way that leads him to heaven. He knows well that killing means damnation. That is why he believes only in Hell for he kills

two persons and tries to lead Rose to kill herself. When Pinkie is with Rose encouraging her to kill herself, he thinks of peace after Rose mentioning it to him. Pinkie repeats "Dona nobis pacem" (BR: 53, 99,230,242), but he never feels peace. He feels that " he wasn't made for peace, he couldn't believe in it. Heaven was a word: Hell was something he could trust." ( Br:230). Based on that belief in Hell, Pinkie behaves. He hates all people and can't trust anyone. This leads him to kill himself at the end.

Moreover, his belief is the reason for him to suffer. He thinks sometimes to go and repent after getting rid of Rose. He thinks that he will have the chance to repent and confess though, as mentioned above, he never believes that he is made for peace. He hates music that reminds him of church. He suffers from getting married not in the church. He doesn't bring rings saying that " we don't need any ring. This isn't a church" ( BR: 171) and he knows well that this way of getting married " is a mortal sin". He repeats this to Rose more than ones. Pinkie, as mentioned in the article '*Elements of Crime Writing*', "is more troubled by the mortal sin of marrying Rose outside the Christian church"<sup>4</sup>. Because of his believe of Hell, Pinkie tells Rose that he doesn't go to Mass (BR.53) . When he meets one of his school classmates 'Piker', who works as a waiter, he says to him " You a good Catholic, Piker? Do you go to Mass on Sundays like they tell you?"

Piker with weak defiance : " why not, Pinkie?"

" You're afraid," the boy said " You're afraid of burning"

" Who wouldn't be?"

" I'm not" .... and repeated" I'm not afraid" ( BR: 241)

In this dialogue, Pinkie tries to prove to both Rose and his classmate that he is not like them. He is brave and doesn't fear being burnt. He also means to encourage Rose to be as strong as him and to kill herself.

Though Pinkie is led by his believe that there is only hell, this doesn't prevent him from praying. While the mob go to kill Hale, Pinkie walks here and there waiting for them. He stands in one of the shooting booth and thinks " Hail Mary ..... in the hour of our death" ( BR: 22) Alan G. Hefner describes this prayer:

This prayer has two parts. The first part of the prayer is derived from Biblical scripture. The initial words, " Hail Mary, full of grace, the lord is with thee" it is in the Gospel of Luke. Traditionally Catholics say this prayer to plead for and gain the intercession of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The second part of the prayer, the closing

petition, " Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death" was added by the Catechism states that is the holy church of God. It means that by her intercession she may reconcile God with sinners and obtain for them to the help the need for this present life and for the life which has no end.<sup>5</sup>

This shows that Pinkie prays for he needs Mary's help. He wants to be forgiven, but he never deals in a good way or repent. Moreover, when he and Rose talk about Ida that she doesn't believe a thing. Pinkie tries to defend himself saying that " I don't take any stock in religion. Hell- it's just there. You don't need to think of it- not before you die."

"You might die sudden."

Pinkie tells her " You know what they say- " Between the stirrup and the ground, he something sought and something found"

" Mercy"

That's right: mercy"

" It wouldn't be awful though," she said slowly, " if they didn't give you time" ..... That's what I always pray. That I don't die sudden. What do you pray?" " I don't" ( BR:92)

Greene clarifies that Pinkie is a liar. He prays all the time, even when he speaks to someone or something, not to carry on with her. From what mentioned above, it is clearly shown that Pinkie believes in his religion. If he does not, he will not suffer or lie. But what is clearly shown is that, his ambition, his belief in life and how to be in a high position controls Pinkie more than his religion. Moreover, Pinkie's pride plays a role. He gets angry and poison comes in his vein when he feels that he is insulted or not treated in a proper way, and the way he wants to be treated. He feels poison in his veins. An example of that is when the inspector advices him not to stand against Mr. Colleoni because he is young, he feels that he is insulted. Greene describes Pinkies feeling at that moment saying:

There was poison in his veins, though he grinned and bore it. He had been insulted. He was going to show the world. They thought because he was only seventeen ... he jerked his narrow shoulders back at the memory that he'd killed his man, and these bogies who thought they were clever weren't clever enough to discover that. He trailed the clouds of his own glory after him: hell lay about him in his infancy. He was ready for more deaths.( BR:69)

In the example above, Pinkie's feeling of insulted makes him think of killing. The poison that appears every time he feels insulted makes him think of killing and Hell. Hell is the place that

he believes he will be in because he is damned. Wordsworth words "hell lay about him in his infancy" is adopted by Greene to show that Pinkie believes only in Hell as if it lay about him in his infancy. Another situation when Pinkie talks to Rose and the later tells him:

"I'm bad" She implored him, "I want to be bad if she's good and you-"

"You'll never be anything but good," the boy said. "There's some wouldn't like you for that, but I don't care."

"I'll do anything for you. Tell me what to do. I don't want to be like her."

"It's not what you do," the boy said, "it's what you think." He boasted. "It's in the blood. Perhaps when they christened me, the holy water didn't take. I never howled the devil out" (BR: 128)

Here again, Pinkie can't get rid of his belief. He believes that he is damned and this feeling is not a new one. He feels that devil is there living with him. The holy water when they baptize him doesn't effect on him. He tells that to Rose in a clear way. He believes well that Rose is good and he is bad. They can't be anything but what they are.

Nevertheless, Pinkie thinks of repentance more than ones. When he is attacked by Colleoni's men, he tries to repent, however, he doesn't have the ability to do so. Greene describes Pinkie's situation:

He wept as he ran, lame in one leg from the kick. He even tried to pray. You couldn't be saved if you didn't repent and he hadn't time, scrambling down the chalk down, to feel the least remorse." ... "There he stood in the dusky interior with his razor out, trying to repent. He thought: 'Spicer', 'Fred', but his thought wouldn't carry him no further than the corner where his pursuers might reappear: he discovered that he hadn't the energy to repent. (BR:108)

At that moment, Pinkie thinks of many things and even of the owner of the place he is in. He feels that he hates him. This feeling expresses Pinkie characters. He is full of hate and never loves anyone even those who he does not know and they do not hurt him. When dark comes, Pinkie thinks that it is time for him to make his peace, but he discovers that "Between the stirrup and the ground there wasn't time: you couldn't break in a moment the habit of thought: habit held you closely while you died." (BR: 109) Moreover, When Pinkie thinks of Spicer, he feels that it is difficult to repent. For him "it was impossible to repent of something which made you safe." (BR:110). Pinkie tells Rose that:

"The stirrup and the ground. That doesn't work."

" What you did" she persisted, " did you confess it?" he said evasively, a dark stubborn figure resting his bandaged hand on the Australian hock: " I haven't been to Mass for years." ( BR: 115).

Pinkie uses this sentence "Between [in the original Betwixt] the stirrup and the ground' for more the one time to emphasize his belief. Amsbabee points out it is "a quote by the 16th century scholar and historian 'William Camden'. A deep-seated fear shared by many Catholics is that sudden or unexpected death will not allow them sufficient time to consider and repent their sins by receiving last rites"<sup>6</sup>. By Pinkie's situation and the disability of him to repent, Greene sends an important message that a person is going to die as he lives. He cannot be bad all the time and at the end, he will repent and vice versa. At the moment of death, people deal with it as they deal during their lives. That's why Pinkie could not repent. He does not have the ability to do so because many thoughts controls him. These thoughts are the ones he lives with all of his life and is controlled by them.

Although Pinkie hates Rose, he believes she belongs to his life, like a door or a chair. Pinkie discovers that Rose is good. He knows well that he is damned, as a result, he feels they are made for each other.

Another evidence that proof Pinkie's belief is when he is with Sylvia, he prays "Marry, he thought; hell no; I'd rather hang" (BR: 137). Moreover, Pinkie tells Dallow that: " When I was a kid, I swore I'd be a priest." " A priest? You a priest? That's good." Dallow said. He laughed ..... " What's wrong with being a priest? the boy said ( BR: 167). This part proves that Pinkie is a strong believer to the degree that he ones wants to be a priest, however, he is drugged by his devil insect and follows him and only believes that he is made for Hell, so he behaves based on that.

**Rose:**

Rose is as Pinkie a Roman Catholic. She carries beads that makes Pinkie figure out her religion. When Pinkie asks her " Do you go to Mass?, she replies " Sometimes, It depends on work. Most weeks I wouldn't get much sleep if I went to Mass." (BR:53) Moreover, when Pinkie tells her that there is Hell, she insists "And Heaven too" (BR:54). Rose doesn't like Ida because the later doesn't belief in God. Rose tells Pinkie "We were all Romans in Nelson Place. You believe in things. Like Hell. But you can see she doesn't believe a thing." ( BR: 92) She accepts Pinkie because at least he believes in Hell that means he believes that there is God, but not to believe at all, it means the person is ignorant. That is why she considers Ida as

an ignorant person. Thus, she tells Pinkie that " I'd rather burn with you than be like her." (BR: 115). Rose prefers to be bad rather than being unbeliever like Ida. She tells Pinkie " I'm bad. I want to be bad if she's good" (BR: 128).

Rose loves Pinkie and because of this love she is ready to do anything for him even to be damned like him. When Pinkie tells her he wants to marry her, which is against the catholic church for they are under aged, she goes to a priest who informs her it is a mortal sin. When Pinkie tells her " We got to be married properly", she says " We won't be that, whatever we do. The father up at St John's-he says-" Pinkie stops her completing her words. He tells her " You don't want to listen too much to priests. They don't know the world like I do. Ideas change, the world move on ...." (BR: 141). In their marriage day, Rose is late because she goes to the church. Pinkie asks her

" What for?"

" I don't know, Pinkie. I got confused. I thought I'd go to confession."

He grinned at her. " Confession? That's rich."

"You see, I wanted- I thought-"

" For Christ's, what"

"I wanted to be in a state of grace when I married you." she said

" And did you?" the boy said.

" No. I went and rang the bell and asked for Father James. But then I remembered. It wasn't any good confessing. I went away." She said with a mixture fear and pride. " We're going to do a mortal sin" ( BR: 169)

Rose, during the wedding ceremony, never talks. She is silent and not happy because she knows well that they both Pinkie and her do a mortal sin and are damned. Mr. Prewitt tries to make her calm and happy by telling her "One wedding's as good as another in the eyes of the law." (BR: 172), but this doesn't make her happy because she believes in God. She wants her marriage to be in the church. She could not get rid of the idea that they are both damned.

Nevertheless, Rose has a hope that Pinkie may change and become a good catholic person. She hopes that he one day will go to confess and be absolved and that's what she says to Ida " people change" .... " confession... repentance" ( BR: 200). When Ida warns her that she may be in danger, she does not care. She thinks " greater love hath no man than this " (

BR: 202). Zgierska ( 175:2014) clarifies that what Rose thinks of is the base of Catholicism. He claims:

This fragment alludes to the saying in St John's Gospel. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends' ( John 15:12-13). Rose's sacrificial love for Pinkie is thus another indication of her goodness. The fact is that by loving Pinkie, she shows her deep love for God. On one hand, she abandons Catholicism, but on the other one, she acts according to its standards.<sup>7</sup>

Thus, when she feels that he may be damned, she decides to be damned like him, so she does a mortal sin by marrying him. When she walks the day after their wedding day and sees the people coming back from the church, She feels there is no need to do as others do. Her feeling of damnation gives her the feeling of being free. She tells him " I love you, Pinkie. I don't care what you do. I love you forever. You've been good to me. Wherever you go, I'll go too." ( BR:190). These words emphasize that Rose becomes ready to be demanded like Pinkie and ready to go where he will go. Rose, as Swarnkar and Srivastava (989:2015) declare, is " innocence, however, is still innocence in the midst of corruption. It consists in her selfless desire to commit any sin and accept damnation for the sake of Pinkie"<sup>8</sup>. As a result, she decides to kill herself for the sake of Pinkie. She tells herself that " He was going to damn himself, but she was going to show them that they couldn't damn him without damning her too: there was nothing he can do she wouldn't do" ( BR: 231), and when she holds the gun, she also thinks of the same idea " If I don't ... shoot. Would he shoot himself alone, without her? Then he would be damned and she wouldn't have her chance of being damned too, of showing Them they couldn't pick and choose" ( BR:243). The surface of the idea shows that Rose rejects her religion and decides to be with the devil side, however, Rose's belief in God and the catholic church plays an important role. She wants to sacrifice herself to save Pinkie from being damned. Kunkel (102) points out "If there were no place for God in her life, she wouldn't be bothered by Pinkie's soul being 'engaged in its adventure with eternity'" (cited in Zgierska, 175:2014)<sup>9</sup>. Henry J. Donaghy (36) claims "If her faith were not deeply rooted in her, she would not think about their, i.e. her and Pinkie's, after life (cited in Zgierska, 175:2014)<sup>10</sup>. Zgierska (175:2014) assures this idea by saying "in fact, she [Rose] rejects her religion only on the surface since, deep inside, she always remains connected with God. This is probably the only motivating force behind her actions."<sup>11</sup> Rose feels that she



can't save Pinkie from being damned, so she decides to sacrifice herself to save him in the afterlife. Rose is ready to do that because of her deep and blind trust of the mercy of God. When Pinkie dies, Rose feels she loses her chance to save him. She wants a guide to tell her what to do, so she goes to a priest to think not for herself but for him and how she can be damned as him since she can't make him absolved. She says to the priest, after the later tells her to pray and hope, "I want to hope but I don't know how". The priest tells her " If he loved you, surely, that shows there was some good"(BR:249). Greene describes Rose's feeling saying " she went out into the street - the pain was still there; you couldn't shake it off with a word; but the worst horror she thought was over- the horror of the complete circle" ( BR: 249) Rose has hope to save Pinkie from being damned, she walks rapidly towards Frank's; towards as Greene describes " the worst horror of all" (BR: 250) Because when Rose will hear the record, she will hear Pinkie saying " God damn you, you little bitch, why can't you go back home for ever and let me be" ( BR: 179). By this Rose will become sure she is about being damned and sacrifice herself for a person who never loves her.

### **Ida**

Ida, unlike Pinkie and Rose, does not believe in Catholicism. She believes in ghosts and Ouija Board. Ida believes in life and the importance of living it in a way a person like to. Greene' clarifies that saying:

Death shocked her, life was so important. She wasn't religious. She didn't believe in heaven or hell, only in ghosts, Ouija board" ... " Let Papists treat death with flippancy: life wasn't so important perhaps to them as what came after: but to her death was the end of everything. At one with the One, it didn't mean a thing beside a glass of Guinness on a Sunny day. She believed in ghosts, but you couldn't call that thin transparent existence life eternal." (BR:36)

Later Greene also describes the importance of life to Ida and her values. He points out that She took life with a deadly seriousness: she was prepared to cause any amount of unhappiness to anyone in order to defend the only thing she believed in. To lose your lover- ' broken hearts,' she would say always mended, to be maimed or blinded - 'lucky,' she'd tell you to be alive at all.' (BR:36)

Greene's description of Ida's character and values is the key of why she follows the track of Fred's accidents. Ida has values that she believe in them and never change them. She is ready to do anything for what she believes even if it is dangerous. Mr. Corkery tells her "

It's dangerous" She tells him "It's dangerous all right." Later, he tells her " I shouldn't get mixed up in anything, Ida. He wasn't anything to you." She tells him He wasn't anything to anyone, that's the trouble." ( BR:77) Though Fred doesn't mean anything to her, she believes in good and wrong and good should be there and take its place. She also believes that "An eye for an eye." She repeats this phrase for more than one time. That's why she decides to get Hale's revenge. Ida says " I'm going to make those people sorry they was ever born" (BR:44).This is Ida's philosophy. This philosophy plays a role in the actions of the whole novel.

Ida's believing in right and wrong motives her to save Rose, to stop Pinkie and to find the killer of Hale. She tells Rose " I don't want the innocent to suffer" (BR: 123, 201). Ida also tells Rose "I know one thing you don't. I know the difference between Right and Wrong. They didn't teach you that at school" (BR:201)

Though, it is announced that Hale ( Fred) has died naturally, Ida's intuition tells her there is something wrong. She couldn't believe what the police says, so she uses the Board to tell her whether Hale is killed or not. Ida says " the Board always means something"(BR:44). She tries many times till the Board writes (FRESUICILLEYE). Ida has the ability to figure what does this long word means. She explains to old Crowe "Why, it's clear as clear. Fre short for Fred and Suici for Suicide and Eye; that's what I always say - an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."... " They drove him to death," Ida said happily. " I knew there was something fishy. See that eye. That as good as tells me what to do." ( BR:44)

As a result, Ida plays the role of a detective. Because she cannot trust God, she decides to play the role and figure who kills Fred. Ida thinks " If you believed in God, you might leave vengeance to him, but you couldn't trust the One, the universal spirit. Vengeance was Ida's, just as much as reward was Ida's."( BR:37) Ida does a great job by discovering Pinkie and stopping him. She also saves Rose. At the end, she uses the Board to ask whether to go to her husband Tom or not. Ida tells Old Crow " I want to ask advice. I want to ask whether may be I ought to go back to Tom." ( BR: 247)

## **2. Myths and Scared stories:**

In Brighton Rock there is not any mention of myths or scared stories based on Bible and catholic religion, however, Greene mentions a story of a French man called ' Charles Peguy' whose ideas effect on Greene. Greene quotes some of his words in his novels. Greene, as McNerny points out " uses Peguy's quotation ' The sinner is at the very heart of

Christianity. Nobody is so competent as the sinner in matters of Christianity. Nobody, except the saint' As an epigraph in his novel "*The Heart of the Matter*" (cited in en.m.wikipedia.org)<sup>12</sup>. As Zgierska (164:2014) declares

Greene was fascinated with the ideas that the Frenchman presented in his work. Peguy was a strong believer, however he ceased to attend masses and take sacraments, bringing himself a theoretical downfall as he could not stand the thought of other people, especially his beloved ones, suffering damnation. That "voluntary damnation" along with "the sinner is at the very heart of Christianity" are Peguy's most well known ideas, which reappear in Greene's novels. Both Rose and the whisky priest seem to follow the idea presented in '*Jeanne de'Arc*' where the protagonist sates that: "if the greatest suffering of the damn is that God is absent from their eternity [...] [and] if it is necessary to save the damned from the absence of God by abandoning my own soul; to the absence of God, let it go into this absence (qtd. Marjorie Villiers 85). The second belief highlights that "no one is more competent than a sinner in matters of Christianity. No one unless it be a saint" (Peguy 179).<sup>13</sup>

Greene mentions Peguy in Brighton Rock calling him the French man through the priest's words while he is talking to Rose. The priest tries to give her hope, to show her that God's mercy is upon everything. He tells her

There was a man, a Frenchman, you wouldn't know about him, my child, who had the same idea as you. He was a good man, a holy man, and he lived in sin all through his life, because he couldn't bear the idea that any soul could suffer damnation. This man decided that if any soul was going to be damned, he would be damn too. He never took the sacrament, he never married his wife in church. I don't know, my child, but some people think he was -well, a saint. I think he died in what we are told is mortal sin- I'm not sure in the war perhaps... (BR: 248)

Greene makes this anonymous priest says this story to prove what he believes in that God mercy is upon everything. There is no one that "can't conceive, my child, nor can I or anyone- the ... appalling... strangeness of the mercy of God." (BR:248) In another words, Greene uses this story to send an important message that God's mercy is upon everything, so no one has the right to say this is damned and this is not.

### 3. Sacred Texts and Religion Writings:

There is not any text or writings that mentions clearly in Briton Rock, however, some of what the Catholic church teaches as a vast array of texts is clearly shown in Rose. One of these arrays is Beatitude. Rose feels happy from small things such as getting ice cream and a record of Pinkie's voice. She keeps repeating to Pinkie that he is good to her. When Pinkie gives her the black disk, " she took it from him carefully, carried it like something to be defended from the crowd. Even on the sunny side of the pier it was getting cold" ( BR: 179) This black disk is not expensive. It costs only sixpence. But Rose wants it as a souvenir from her lover and husband Pinkie. Rose encounters hard condition, but she manages herself to grow up as a good person. She believes in Heaven and she wants to be there. She also wants to save Pinkie and helps him change and be a good one.

There are also some religious expressions that are used.

1. Pinkie repeats "*Dona nobis pacem*" (BR: 99,230,242)
2. Pinkie sings in his spoilt boy's voice " Angus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem. "... " credo in unum Domium " ( BR: 53)
3. He also thought " Aguns Dei qui tollis peccata mundi ..." ( BR: 99)
4. Mr. Prewitt says, "No esprit de corps"( BR: 212)
5. The priest also uses " *Corruptio optimi est pessima*" (BR:249)

### 4. Rituals:

There are many Catholicism rituals that are shown in Brighton Rock. Rose and Pinkie pray. Though Pinkie dines that; he prays all the time. Rose also prays all the time. Rose goes to Mass every Sunday when it is possible for her. Piker, Pinkie's classmate, also goes to Mass. There is a description of one of the Sundays that is the day after Pinkie and Rose get married. At that day, Rose feels freedom from all the Catholic rituals.

In the world outside it was Sunday- she'd forgotten that: the church bells reminded her, shaking over Brighton. Freedom again in the early sun, freedom from the silent prayers at the altar, from the awful demands made on you made at the sanctuary rail ... People coming back from seven-thirty Mass, people on the way to eight-thirty Matins (BR: 196)

At the end of the novel, Rose goes to a priest to confess. She cries and tells him about everything. She wants to be damned like Pinkie, but the priest gives her hope not only for her but also for Pinkie. He tells her if she has a baby, she should grow him to be a saint, so he can

pray for his father.

Moreover, the Seven Sacraments are mentioned indirectly. Through the seven parts of the novel, Greene applies the Seven Sacraments one by one through Pinkie. Henderson (2005) clarifies that

They [the Seven Sacraments] appear to be a satanic version of the Sacraments. Baptism could be interpreted from the book when Pinkie is 'baptised' as leader of the gang through Kite's death – Holy Eucharist when the gang share a meal of '...four fish and chips and a pot of tea'<sup>21</sup> just after Hale's murder. Pinkie is then confirmed in the habit of murder, which could be seen to represent the third sacrament of Confirmation: 'Hell lay about him in his infancy. He was ready for more deaths'.<sup>22</sup> Holy Matrimony is represented by his sham marriage to Rose, 'We're going to do a Mortal Sin'<sup>23</sup> Pinkie has to suffer being married to Rose and endure sexual contact with her even though he hates her, which could be said to represent Penance. Holy orders is fulfilled when Pinkie is ordained a priest of his own satanic church. 'Credo in unum Satanum.'<sup>24</sup> The final Sacrament is undertaken when Pinkie is anointed with acid just before his death. All of the Sacraments evidently centre around the main protagonist, Pinkie. Throughout, he is portrayed as a satanic, evil character.<sup>14</sup>

Greene uses the seven sacraments of the Catholic church in an opposite way. Pinkie uses them in a satanic way to achieve his dreams. Moreover, one of the rituals that appears is the funeral of a dead Catholic. Greene describes Hale's funeral.

## **5. Symbols**

The only symbol that appears in Brighton Rock is the string beads that is in Rose's bag (BR:53). This string of beads is one of the Catholic symbol that makes Pinkie know Rose is a Roman as him.

## **6. Social structure of the Catholic Church:**

In Brighton Rock, the only leadership that appears in the novel is priest. There are two priest that are mentioned. Rose goes to the two to confess. The first priest is the one that Rose goes to ask about her marriage. He tells her that their marriage is not accepted. When Pinkie tells her " We got to be married properly" She says " We won't be that, whatever we do. The father up at St John's-he says-" (BR:141). The other is the one Rose goes to confess and ask how she can be damned as Pinkie. This priest helps her to find peace and to change her idea

from being damned to have hope that Pinkie can be absolved. He tells her to hope and pray and to make her baby a saint to pray for his father.

### **7. Ethical Principles or Oral and Written Cods of Behavior:**

Based on the Ten Commandments that express duties to God and others in the community, one can notice that some of these commandments are applied by some characters. Rose for example loves God, believes in him and his mercy. She prays and goes to Mass. She is innocence and doesn't hate anyone. She is ready to sacrifice herself for the sake of her love to Pinkie. She respects her parents and never blame them even when they refuse giving her any money for her marriage, she gives them an excuse. Rose says " I asked them for a little money. They wouldn't give it to me. They'd a right. It was theirs"( BR:174). She suffers because of the mortal sin that she does by marrying Pinkie under age and not in the church. Rose never steals money. She admits that " she had stolen biscuits, she had never stolen money before" ( BR:195). When she takes the money, she feels that it's her right. She thinks: " After all we are married - in a way; he's given me nothing but the record; he wouldn't grudge me- half a crown. ( BR:195)

Pinkie, on the other side, doesn't follow these commandments although he is a Catholic. He kills for sake of being save. He commits two murders. He kills Fred and then Spicer. He wants to get rid of Rose by encouraging her killing herself. Though he knows well that he will do a mortal sin, he marries Rose for the sake of being save and not making her witness against him. He thinks a lot of Mr. Colleoni's life and envies him. He wants to be better than him and destroy him. He is selfish and ready to do anything for himself only.

### **8. Religious Experience and Spirituality:**

Doing the rituals of the religion and apply them is the experience the person does in his religion. In Brighton Rock, Rose and Pinkie pray. Rose and Piker go to Mass on Sundays. People go to mass and then go to Matins. " People coming back from seven-thirty Mass, people on the way to eight-thirty Matins. " (BR: 196) There is a description of Hale's funeral. The one that Ida attends and says that she likes:

Our belief in heaven, " the clergyman went on, " is not qualified by our disbelief in the old medieval hell. We believe," he said, glancing swiftly along the smooth polished slipway towards the New Art doors through which the coffin would be launched into the flames, " we believe that this our bother is already at one with the One. ( BR: 35)

Greene describes the new idea that there is no hell by the clergy man, however, he mocks at this idea when he describes the coffin while burning. Greene says " the coffin slid smoothly down into the fiery sea" ( BR: 36). Greene wants to send a message that there is Hell, and no one can deny it.

To sum up. Based on the aspects of religion that a person apply and believe in , one can notice Brighton Rock applies all these aspects directly or indirectly which means religion has a great impact in it. Pinkie and Rose are moved by what they believe. They suffer, but they couldn't get rid of their religion. On the other hand, Ida, the unbeliever, also applies what she believes in. She does her best to achieve her goal that right should be set. She saves Rose and stops Pinkie continuing his devil ambition. Moreover, through applying the aspects of religion, Greene sends a crucial message that there is Hell as there is Heaven, however, God's mercy is upon everything, even sinners can get this mercy. The priests says " The church does not demand that we believe any soul is cut off from mercy" ... " I mean- a Catholic is more capable of evil than anyone. I think perhaps- because we believe in Him- we are more in touch with the devil than other people." ( BR: 249) Greene's theme is to reach to this message that those who believe in God are more capable of evil, but still believing in Him [God] is only enough to get his mercy. Thus, based on Catholicism, Pinkie is nearer to God than Rose because, as Swarnkar& Srivastava 990:2015) clarify, " a sinner's estrangement from God is not a complete separation from Him"<sup>15</sup> which means that God's mercy may not deny him.

### **Culture Impact in Brighton Rock**

Culture is described as the way people live, how they deal with each other and how they behave. Based on the seven culture aspects that are Social organization, Customs and traditions, language, arts and literature, Religion, Forms of Government, and economic System, the researcher is going to discuss Brighton Rock to see to what degree it has been influenced by its culture.

#### **1. Social Organization**

Talking about social organization, it means talking about, family, friends, religious groups, social class, occupation and interests groups.

##### **1.1. Family:**

In the whole novel, there is only one family that is Rose's family. This family is consists of three members; Rose, her father and mother. This family is not a good family.

Rose's parents don't care about her. They only care about themselves and their mood. They are poor. When Pinkie goes to ask for their permission to marry Rose. First they pay him no attention, but then when he mentions money, they ask him to pay guineas.

"I'll give you twelve," They boy said.

"It's not a question of money," the man said." I like the look of you. We wouldn't want to stand in the way of Rose bettering herself- but you're too young."

"Fifteen's my limit," the boy said," take it or leave it."

"You can't do anything without we say yes," the man said.

The boy moved a little away from Rose." I'm not all that knee."

"Make it guineas." (BR: 145)

When Pinkie accepts to pay them guineas, they give them the permission to get married. They refuse to give Rose money for her wedding because its theirs, They don't even attend their daughter's wedding day. Their house is small, not clean and the stove is not lit. Their carelessness play a role in Rose's character. She is ready to do anything for Pinkie because she feels that he loves her, takes care of her, and does many things for her. She keeps telling him that "You are sweet to me" ( BR: 93, 114)

### **1.2. Friends:**

Spicer, Dallow and Cubitt are members in the mob that Pinkie leads. Pinkie and his mob are as friends. They live together and spend their time together. They are older than Pinkie. Spicer is a good man who is against killing. He keeps worrying after the death of Fred and that's why Pinkie kills him at the end. Dallow is the one that Pinkie can trust. When Pinkie wants to think loudly, he goes to Dallow. Cubitt also is a good one. He gets angry after he knows that Pinkie kills Spicer and leaves the mob.

Ida and Mr. Corkery are friends. He stands with her and helps her to go on her mission. He supports her all the time.

### **1.3. Religious Groups**

There is not any mention to any religious group in Brighton Rock. The only clearly thing that appears is Pinkie and Rose are Roman. In the day of their marriage, Rose is late for she goes to confess because she wants to be in the state of grace when she marries him. At that moment, Greene describes the situation saying "She [ Rose took no notice at all of Dallow. The theological term lay oddly and pedantically on her tongue. They were two Romans together in the grey streets. They understood each other. She used terms common to



Heaven and Hell." ( BR: 169)

#### **1.4. Social Class**

Pinkie, Rose and Ida are from low class. They are poor. One of the reasons that makes Pinkie hates Rose is that she is from a low class. She always reminds him of what he wants to forget. He keeps showing her that he is not like her and he has money. When Rose tells him that she thinks he is from Nelson Place, he: "defended himself from any connexion with Nelson Place: ' I don't take any stock in religion. Hell- it's just there....'" ( BR: 92)

Ida also from a low class. She has a big laugh. Though she looks like those from upper class, but as one talks to her, s/he can easily figure that she is from a low class. As example to that is when Cubitt talks to her," he realized with immense pleasure when she spoke that she wasn't a class" ( BR: 162)

Mr. Colleoni is the only one that is from upper class in the novel. He becomes rich and changes his work to business. He wants to be political that is why he decides to stop any trouble. He writes to Pinkie that

He's got most of our boys and all the bookies. But he doesn't want trouble. He's a business man- he says a fight like you had the other day brings track into- disrepute.- disrepute" Dallow low repeated ..... he says he'll pay you three hundred nicker for the goodwill. Goodwill:" " he means not carving his geezers ( BR:221)

#### **1.5. Occupation**

Pinkie is the leader of a mob. Rose is a waitress. Ida gets money after she bets black boy. Mr. Prewitt is a lawyer, Mr. Colleoni is a business man, and Hale works as ' Kolley Kipper' paid by the Daily Messenger. Their occupation plays a role in the novel. Pinkie's leading the mob makes him thinking of everything. It also gives him the ambition to be better and better and starts dreaming of being better than Mr. Colleoni. Because of this, Pinkie is ready to do anything even killing. Pinkie repeats more than ones " have I got to have a massacre". and is ready to do that if the world will stand against him and his dream

Rose, on the other hand, feels happy that a rich boy is admiring her. She sometimes feels she doesn't suit him because he has a car and a lawyer, so she is ready to do anything for him to suit him and makes him happy.

Ida, never takes money from any one without paying back. She takes some money from Hale, so she pays him back by catching those who are the reason of his death.

Mr. Colleoni's business is the reason of getting rid from the only one that threatens his business; Kite. He kills Kite and destroys his mob to live in a stable situation without troubles.

Finally, Hale, who works as Kolley Kibber, has to wonder in Brighton to distribute cards here and there. He knows that Pinkie's gang may kill him, but he feels he must do his job, as a result, he has been killed. His death plays the main role in the actions of the novel.

### **1.6. Interests Groups**

The two mobs, that are Pinkie's mob and Mr. Colleoni's mob, are interested in Horse race. Ida also becomes interested because she needs money to spend in her mission. She bets the black boy and wins. The money she gets helps her in searching for the truth.

### **2. Customs and Traditions:**

There are several customs and traditions that are shown in Brighton Rock some of these; When a boy is interested in a girl, he asks her to go for a walk. When they get married, there should be rings. These two customs appear in Brighton Rock. Pinkie tries to show his interest to Rose, so they go for a walk. He doesn't give her a ring for he doesn't believe that it's a real marriage. "No ring?" the register asked sharply. " We don't need any ring," the boy said. " This isn't a church" ( BR: 171). Moreover, People celebrate before getting married and during the wedding by drinking wine. There is also a description of how people spend their free time; an example of that is the races day.

People poured into Brighton by the first train; it was like Bank Holiday all over again, except that these people didn't spend their money; they harboured it..... the junior girls took to their heels like ponies racing on the turf, feeling the excitement going on outside, as if this were a day on which life for many people reached a kind of climax...( BR: 101)

It's clearly shown that people don't put their nose in other's business. They don't ask where and why they do this or that even if this is a husband or wife. When Rose tells Pinkie she will go out, he doesn't ask her to where " I was just going out for a while, Is there anything I can do for you." ... He said: " You're fussed about nothing. I want you to go all right, you can go," he went savagely on, " to..." But he stopped in time, raked up a smile, "go and enjoy yourself." (BR: 220) and when Pinkie tells a man:

"We're going Hastings way"

" I don't want to know," the man said, " where you're going" ( BR:228)

### 3. Language:

Greene uses a standard language in Brighton Rock when he describes the actions, the sittings, and thoughts of the characters. However, Greene uses slang while the characters talk to each other, such as 'polony, buer, mob, nicker, and bogies'. AQA points that " The language that is used is raw and Greene incorporates the slang of the underworld ( polony, buer, nicker, bogies) to give a sense of realism."<sup>16</sup> The characters also use broken language such as:

1. It don't matter to me. ( BR: 98)
2. It kind of gets you in the stomach. (BR: 166)
3. Why shouldn't we be friends? Like we always was. (BR: 185)
4. She's never going to leave go. (BR: 227)
5. You a servant? (BR: 132)
6. You know I seen him. (BR: 237)

There are also expressions and proverbs:

1. They've pulled my leg properly. (BR: 16)
2. From hand to mouth. (BR: 17)
3. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. (BR: 44)
4. Cross my heart (BR: 49)
5. She didn't know them from Adam (BR: 78)
6. It's not all roses. (BR: 197)
7. You needn't get your rag out. (BR: 228)
8. By hook or by crook. (BR: 241)

### 4. Arts and Literature:

There is a mention of two of famous characters in the English literature Hamlet and Dr. Faustus. Both are mentioned by Pinkie's lawyer; Mr. Prewitt. " The Rank intruding fool, I mean. In Hamlet." (BR: 211) Later Mr. Prewitt tells Pinkie " You know what Mephistopheles said to Faustus when he asked where Hell was? He said: ' Why, this is Hell, nor are we out of it. '" (BR:212). These two characters, Hamlet and Faustus, are well known they sell themselves for devil. They are ready also for being damned. Mentioning them in the story indicates Pinkie's damnation. He is like them damned and sells himself to devil for getting the life he dreams of. As (Moore, 2000) mentions " Pinkie would not be familiar with Marlowe's play, but the quotation expresses an idea to which his own thoughts have been

tending."<sup>17</sup>

Mephistopheles' quotation indicates that Both Faustus and Pinkie are alike. It also indicates that Brighton is like hell for Pinkie that he can never leave it. Pinkie tells Dallow " I know Goodwood and Hurst Park. I've been to Newmarket. But I'd feel a stranger away from here.' He claimed with dreary pride-' I suppose I'm real Brighton'" (BR:222) For Pinkie Brighton is a place where he lives and cannot leave. It is the hell he chooses to be in and because of it he chooses to be damned. He dreams to be in a high position in this place.

## **5. Religion**

Brighton is a city in Britain which main religion is Roman Catholic that believes in the trinity; The father, the son and the spirit. Pinkie and Rose represent this religion by its both dimension the hell and the heaven, However, there are unbelievers such as Ida who believes in ghosts and what is right and wrong.

## **6. Forms of Government:**

Through the novel one can notice that the country is a democratic country. People can do whatever they want. There are no force or limitations unless they break the law. Police men do not put their nose or interfere in other business unless people may be bothered or hurt. The inspector tells Pinkie "The race start next week, and I don't want to have any big scale mob fighting in Brighton. I don't mind you carving each other up in a quiet way, I don't give a penny for your worthless skins, but when two mobs start scrapping, people who matter may get hurt."( BR: 68)

## **7. Economic Systems:**

Throughout the novel, one can notice the economic poverty. Rose works at snow's to earn money. Ida doesn't have work, so she has no money. She feels happy when she wins in the race. Mr. Colleoni runs a mob and becomes a business man. He wants everything to be in the safe side, so he offers money to Pinkie to leave the place and not bother his men. Pinkie runs a mob that protects others and interests in Horse races through that they get money. When Cubitt leaves the mob, he doesn't have money and about starving. That 's why Pinkie threatens him of being starved " Clear out. Clear out and stave." (BR:152) Pinkie is right that Cubitt doesn't find a job or money. He goes to Mr. Colleoni where he meets Crab and the later shows him that they are in no need for him. He then goes back to pinkie but the later refuses to help. Finally, he gets money from Ida and run way. Thus, it is clear that the mobs members are victims of the economic poverty. They don't have money so they work in gangs

to gain some.

Moreover, there is a description of the places that actions happen in. For example; Brighton is the a town that has two sides; the tourist's vision that the novel starts describing and the other side is the criminal and corruption side, where mobs are ready to kill each other. Greene describes with detail many places in Brighton such as; The Palace Pier, this place is a key one for it is the place where Pinkie's mob kills Hale. It is also the place where Rose takes Pinkie to. Paradise Piece is the place where Pinkie's house has been there. It is the place that reminds Pinkie of his old days with his parents where there is poverty and there is no any privacy.

Moreover, Greene, as other writers in the 1930s, writes Brighton Rock as a thriller one. He, as others, writes a romantic story that has an action. As Sconce claims (48:2007) that " Stories of wireless and tragic romance had been widespread for many years ... most often these stories featured a young couple, usually newlyweds or on threshold of marriage, separated by death and then reunited when the dead lover makes contact by wireless.." <sup>18</sup> He also mentions many of the entertainment places people use to go to or listen during that period such as; the cinema, the press, the radio, the phone, and the gramophone.

Moreover, Greene shows the importance of women that has a great place in the culture. Ida is a representative of a woman that helps others and wants right to be there even if that puts her in danger. Rose another example of a hard woman that is ready to do anything for the person she loves.

To sum up, culture plays an important role in the actions of the novel and the life of the characters. The characters do what they do based on the culture the live in. Through the culture system, Greene applies his ideas. As an example to that, it is economic poverty that leads Pinkie to be in a gang and then lead it and think of killing. Greene sends crucial messages by following what suits his culture at that period.

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