

Consciousness of Time in Human Life With Reference to Aldous Huxley's *Time And The Machine* – A Brief Study

P. Manimaran

Research Scholar (Ph.D.)
Bharathiar University
Coimbatore

manimarannk114@gmail.com

Dr. M. Kasirajan

Assistant Professor
Department of English
Bharathiar University
Coimbatore

rajankasi32@yahoo.in

Abstract

Aldous Huxley heightens his literary career from symbolist poet to novelist and essayist. In his essay, he portrays the modern English society. He links the ordinary man's thought with scientific knowledge where 'Time and the Machine' is an example. Huxley signifies that the ideas of time are changing. Industrial life made certain differences from the ideas of the past where simplicity in life exists. He warns the present generation and urges to cultivate the old ideas for maintaining a simple and peaceful life. It prevents human from various kinds of sufferings. The spiritual loss in the US and western Europe produces negative consequences where awareness is required.

Keywords: Aldous Huxley, *Time And The Machine*, Time, Machine, Industrialisation, Nature, Mind

Introduction

Changes are inevitable in human society. Seasons are the witness to the natural changes but, time is invented by man. Time is a scale to measure the changes in days and nights. The time sense of modern human society is new which is due to the industrial revolution. It generates psychological changes in man as dyes and perfumes do physically to him.

Every second is converted into money in this modern era. Time is a ruler who possesses immeasurable power towards human souls. So, he runs, even more, faster than the minute hand in a clock. It is to achieve his goals such as reaching his train, punching the cards by the employees, winning the records in the race or to make the machine to work faster by increasing its speed. Time is considered to be a smaller unit. But, the consciousness of man became accurate towards it. The

starting point of a train is important due to several personal reasons of man that links with time. These strange and eccentric actions don't exist in older periods.

Inventors of Time – Watt and Stephenson

James Watt, a Scottish inventor made significant attempts in developing steam engine. It is first used in factories that led to the industrial revolution. George Stephenson designed the first steam trains in Britain and his son Robert Stephenson helped his father in designing them. The locomotive inventions reduce time consumption in travelling and so they are called as inventors of time by the author.

Factories and Their Offices

The industrial world has two important places such as factories and their offices. They are the time emphasizing entities which exist to produce particular quantities of goods in a particular period. In olden days, an artist takes his own time to draw art. It is a time-consuming action that makes the consumer wait for the drawings.

‘Another time-emphasizing entity is the factory and its dependent, the office. Factories exist for the purpose of getting certain quantities of goods made in a certain time’
(Para 3, Lines 1-3)

In a factory, both the workmen and the machine work fast to make products quickly. Factory induces the labour to be instant in their works. Those workers should work within the time which is a direct compulsion. But, during the old age, there was no such compulsion exists on time. Minutes and seconds are the two evolutions of modern society.

Mentalities of Indian and Other Foreign Nations

‘For a modern American or Englishman, waiting is a psychological torture. An Indian accepts the blank hours with resignation, even with satisfaction’. (Para 4, Lines 6-8)

Highly intense awareness of time results in human sufferings. But, during the time of vacation alacrity towards minutes reduces. The man of fixed meal times and regular train services feel bitter and unpleasant on the unpunctual actions of the orient. Particularly, in the case of modern American or Englishman are too worse. Waiting is psychological torture for a US citizen but, it is totally vice versa in the case of Indians who wait leisurely with satisfaction. Our belief towards time filled with various activities such as business is completely different from orient nations.

Old Vs New Generation – a Paradox

There is no point of noticing the minutes in the pre-industrial era. No care is offered to time. It seems to be a paradoxical statement where the human race encounters two opposite situations. The awareness towards oscillations in clocks, the motion of trains and the infinite spinning of machines lacks the awareness of time calculations in larger, natural units and stick towards artificiality.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 19:5 May 2019

Dr. M. Kasirajan and P. Manimaran

Consciousness of Time in Human Life With Reference to Aldous Huxley's *Time And The Machine* –
A Brief Study

The natural units of measuring time are the sun and the moon which, lacks its attention. Attention towards machine made time increases than the natural units. The movements of the sun and the moon are utilised for time measurements where the occasions like equinox and solstice exist. The seasonal changes are clearly noted during the pre-industrial era which is the previous old generation.

Cosmic Time

‘The time of which we have knowledge is artificial, machine-made time. Of natural, cosmic time, as it is measured out by sun and moon, we are for the most part almost wholly unconscious.’ (Para 5, Lines 5-7)

Cosmic Time is significant during the pre-industrial era. Religion like Catholic Christianity encourages daily and seasonal rhythm. The people who work in an urban area fails to encounter the sunrise, moon and stars. They work around the Clock, not the natural elements are utilised for measurements. It is a drawback due to industrialisation and urbanisation.

‘Within, it is an affair of revolving wheels and is measured in seconds and minutes - at its longest, in eight-hour days and six-day weeks. We have a new consciousness; but it has been purchased at the expense of the old consciousness’.

(Para 6, Lines 9-13)

The people who live in towns are away from nature. They are aware of technological advancements but not the sunset which is a unique natural event. Seasonal changes are unknown to them where the cosmic time moves with the motion of sun and stars. Labours look at small wheels for their eight hours in a day and six days in a week which moves to the next level i.e., New consciousness of time which is acquired by neglecting the values of old natural consciousness

Conclusion

In this essay, the author exhibits his personal experience with time. He highlights the significant changes in the tracking of time due to the invention of minutes and seconds. His assertion about time is clearly validated. He draws a line between the pre-industrial and post-industrial era where the disconnection of cosmic time is explored. Time can be split into present, past and future. It can be specific, long and short. Any actions can be connected to time. It is a state of mind where time controls the whole earth. These are due to the work culture in urban areas. Due to the industrialisation and technological innovations, everyone lies in a strict schedule.

=====

Works Cited

Aldous Huxley, *Time And The Machine Essays*. <http://scramblesystems.com/340-time-the-essays-machine-and-huxley-aldous>. Accessed 2019.

=====

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 19:5 May 2019

Dr. M. Kasirajan and P. Manimaran

Consciousness of Time in Human Life With Reference to Aldous Huxley’s *Time And The Machine* – A Brief Study

Aldous Huxley, “*Time And The Machine*” | *Stormfields*. <https://bradbirzer.com/2017/11/08/aldous-huxley-time-and-the-machine/>. Accessed 2019.

Huxley, Aldous et al. *Complete Essays*. I.R. Dee, 2000.

Time And The Machine - This Public Address 5.0.

<http://thispublicaddress.com/tPA5/archives/2010/11/time-and-the-machine.html>. Accessed 2019.

Time And The Machine And Aldous Huxley Free Essays. <https://www.studymode.com/subjects/time-and-the-machine-and-aldous-huxley-page1.html>. Accessed 2019.

Time And The Machine By Aldous Huxley Thesis Writing. <https://ihelptostudy.com/time-and-the-machine-by-aldous-huxley-thesis-2.html>. Accessed 2019.

Time And The Machine, By Aldous Huxley - Abolish Work. <http://abolishwork.com/2014/06/11/time-and-the-machine-by-aldous-huxley/>. Accessed 2019.



P. Manimaran

Research Scholar (Ph.D.)

Bharathiar University

Coimbatore

manimarannkl14@gmail.com

Dr. M. Kasirajan

Assistant Professor

Department of English

Bharathiar University

Coimbatore

rajankasi32@yahoo.in

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 19:5 May 2019

Dr. M. Kasirajan and P. Manimaran

Consciousness of Time in Human Life With Reference to Aldous Huxley’s *Time And The Machine* –
A Brief Study