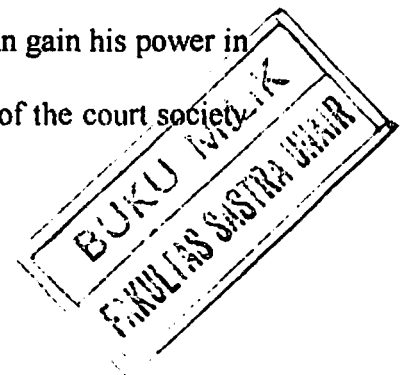


Abstract

The Tale of Genji is a novel written by Lady Murasaki Shikibu during the eleventh century. It is recognized as one of the world's greatest novels. The novel deals with Hikaru Genji (Prince Genji), the Tei's son from his minor consort. Because of this he cannot inherit the crown, even though he is competent and capable. During his life, he has some affairs with several ladies related to his position as a court member and a general of the imperial. His affairs influence his entire life, especially after he learns how to gain more power for himself.

In analyzing the main character, the writer uses the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the story. Intrinsically, the plot will reveal the conflicts that the main character has to face, which greatly influence his behavior. The plot has a strong relationship with the setting, which influences the character in the story. In order to give an analysis based on the extrinsic elements, the writer employs Michel Foucault's Sexuality and Power Theory.

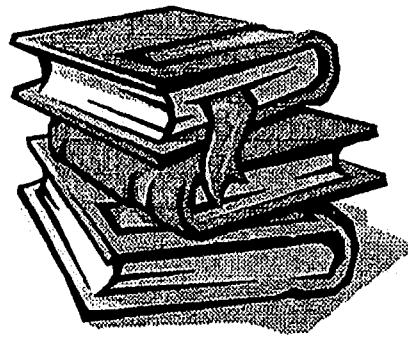
The fact that the main character's affairs has a strong relationship to his will to power is in accordance to his social rank that makes him a portrait of the Japanese court members during the Heian Age. Most of his activities are a reflection of the sociocultural life of the Japanese court member (and also the aristocrat group) during this age. At last, the main character can gain his power in the court as he always wants, and puts himself in a high rank of the court society as a chancellor.



The flowing of the words would light the sorrowful heart; like an open disposal canal whenever the dam water overflows.

Just come over right here, sit next to mine and make a pleasant talk with me.

(Howard Pyle, *The Merry Adventure of Robin Hood* – 1911)



CHAPTER I