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The Uniqueness of the Search for Identity in J. Joyce's Novel:  
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

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A special feeling of gratitude to my loving parents whose words of encouragement and push for tenacity ring in my ear.

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To the memory of my grand mother Rahima.

A special dedication for the joy of my life.

To my wonderful, understanding and patient husband.

## **Abstract**

The dissertation is about the issue of identity in James Joyce's novel, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. The question of identity is very important for Irish writers because Ireland suffered a lot from alien invasion especially British colonialism.

Britain left Ireland without a specific notion of identity. The internal troubles of Ireland affected the inner psyche of individuals, which is reflected in the novel.

This piece of art speaks of the development of an Irish individual who seeks self-definition.

Key words: identity, Irish individuals, colonialism, self definition.

## **Résumé**

Cette étude concerne la recherche d'identité dans le roman de James Joyce. La problématique identitaire est primordiale chez les auteurs Irlandais parce que l'Irlande a subi le colonialisme étranger, en particulier Anglais.

La Grande Bretagne a laissé ce pays sans repaire identitaire. Les problèmes internes de l'Irlande ont influencé le peuple Irlandais au plan psycho-identitaire et ce ceci se reflète dans roman. Ce travail littéraire montre le développement de la personnalité d'un citoyen Irlandais qui cherche son identité.

Mots clés : identité, le peuple Irlandais, colonialisme.

## ملخص

هذه الدراسة تتمحور حول موضوع الهوية في رواية جايمس جويس .مسألة الهوية هي جد مهمة بالنسبة للكاتب

الاييرلنديين لان ايرلندا عانت كثيرا من الاستعمار الاجنبي وخاصة الاستعمار البريطاني .فبريطانيا تركت ايرلندا من دون

إن المشاكل الداخلية في ايرلندا أثرت على هوية و نفسية مواطنيها. وهذا ما تعكسه رواية جايمس جويس. هذا العمل الفني . هوية

.يتعلق بتطور شخصية مواطن ايرلندي يبحث عن هويته الخاصة

. الكلمات الرئيسية هي الهوية-الاييرلنديين-الاستعمار

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## Introduction

I am interested in Irish literature because of its artistic style and its unique techniques. Irish writers even if they live in exile, put the spirit of Ireland in their works of art. In addition, Irish writers produced works which are special in style, concept and form. The Irish works influenced very famous writers as William Faulkner, Virginia Woolf and many others. One of the talented Irish writers is James Joyce who has a number of brilliant works.

James Augustine Aloysius Joyce discovered his creativity in writing at school. He received two prizes for English composition. He attended the theatre regularly and he wrote reviews and compared them with those of news papers.

As I have said, the Irish works reflect the Irish society as the works of James Joyce. Identity is self-definition which had been a problem for the Irish for many years. My dissertation is about the search for an Irish identity in James Joyce's novel A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. This study seeks to define the notions of Irishness and of Irish identity through the novel.

James Joyce wrote A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man in ten years. As soon as Joyce arrived in Trieste in 1905, he brought with him an autobiographical novel with Stephen Hero as a title. At the beginning, the novel was rejected; so, in 1907 Joyce modified the novel and made it shorter and changed its title from Stephen Hero to A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. Till 1914 with the help of the American poet Ezra Pound and Yeats, he printed the novel in serial form in a little review "The Egoist". Finally in 1916, the novel was published in book form in England and U.S.A thanks to Harriet Weaver, the editor of "the Egoist".

The novel is a bildungsroman; a novel about a young man's psychological development. Other critiques called this kind of novel *kunstlerroman* which is the



development of young artists. In bildungsroman, a character passes through many experiences to find his place in society, but in kunstlerroman, the character rejects his society to find his own world.

I have selected this novel because this work reflects the inner development of an Irish individual to find his true identity.

The issue of Irish identity is very interesting. Ireland lost her identity when Britain invaded her and brought Protestantism which opened the door for the division of Irish and the loss of Irish essence.

Stephen Dedalus, the hero of the novel is lost between individual subjectivity and social reality because personal thoughts and society identify characters. The artist as any other human being is produced by a specific social context, so Joyce rejected his society which dominated his imagination and fled away to free his mind. Throughout my research, we will know why Joyce saw Ireland as a prison. The Irish did not think of home with autonomy, so Joyce went away to search for a new united Irish identity. Joyce wanted to create life out of life, though Dublin was dead and was going to take all her people with her.

The novel opens with an epigraph taken from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* in the Greek myth which describes the reaction of the artisan Daedalus after King Minos told him that he could not return to his native country. "Et ignotas animus dimittit in artes" means he turned his mind to unknown art. So, Joyce, like Daedalus, had to use his art to escape and find his true identity in exile. He believed that he should be alive in his works to reflect the struggle of an Irish Individual.

The work is divided into three chapters. The first chapter is a brief historical and social background of Ireland to have a clear idea of the Irish society. We need to know some historical knowledge to understand more the Irish society and why the Irish had identity crisis.

This chapter is going to speak of Catholics because the family of Stephen in the novel is Catholic and the concept of religion is very important. Catholics were very reserved people and they suffered a lot when Protestants put their hands on Ireland.

Religion is a key aspect in the search for Irishness because religion had divided Ireland for many years and till nowadays. The birth of the British Irish relationships started from the Act of Union of 1801 which brought with it a new religion, a new political system and a new Ireland. The Great Famine also was the other problem of Ireland which caused the death of millions of Irish. All the internal troubles made Ireland unstable.

The Irish did not react and they gave their lives to the British till new ideas and beliefs were born with a new generation of Irish. This new generation was called nationalists that fought in different ways to free Ireland from the hands of the British. Nationalists were divided into parliamentary nationalists and revolutionaries, but they had a common purpose which was the independence of Ireland. They wanted free Ireland from the British influence.

The rise of nationalism divided the nation into nationalists who wanted to belong to an independent country and unionists who fought to remain loyal to the British crown.

The instability of Ireland made her people lose their identity. They did not have a distinctive identity and they struggled to find a way to achieve self-discovery. The concept of Irishness turned to be ambiguous.

The Irish society affected its writers who tried to look for a new spirit for the Irish identity. Many Irish writers played the role of God to create a new form and meaning for their Irish identity. However, every writer tried to define the Irish identity in his own vision and this is what I am going to speak about in chapter two of the dissertation.

For Joyce, the Irish society is a part of his life and at the same time, he felt alien in it. In this chapter, we will have an idea about Joyce's vision towards Irishness.

Joyce was not a supporter of cultural and political nationalism, but the uncrowned king, the nationalist Parnell was his idol. Joyce abandoned the Irish society with all its institutions. We will also know why and how Joyce fled away.

The chapter is going also to cover the common faces between Joyce and the hero of his novel Stephen Dedalus. Many characteristics, emotions and thoughts of Joyce portray Stephen and many others are fictional.

The last chapter will treat the development of Stephen's mind. The issue of Identity begins with the Greek name Dedalus which brings ambiguity to his Irish identity. However, the name opens to him the doors of freedom and creates for him another world. Many aspects contributed in the development of Stephen's psyche which are: the legend of Daedalus (the name), Catholicism and political instability. All these aspects influenced Stephen and make him search for an identity which is timeless and spaceless. The chapter speaks of how every corner and face of Ireland influenced Stephen and makes him make his own wings to find his way like the Greek myth of Daedalus. I am going also to speak of the relationship between Stephen and the legend. In the myth, Daedalus is someone who used his creativity to make wings and fly from a labyrinth with his son Icarus.

So, my aim in the dissertation is to focus on the issue of identity in the Irish society of late nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, in addition to the way how James Joyce created his own Irish identity and how he achieved self-discovery through many experiences and beliefs. James Joyce used many techniques to make his readers live in and outside the mind of Stephen.

Through the analysis of the Irish society and the psychological development of the hero of the novel, we will see clearly the issue of identity in this piece of art. \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter Two

### James Joyce and the Irish Identity

*Ireland lived many problems and her people had suffered for many years. As we have seen in the first chapter, the Irish could not live in peace and union because of the internal troubles. The Irish struggled a lot to find their true identity in such a society. The Irish writers tried through their works to create an Irish identity independent from the Irish troubles. Even the Irish writers who fled away from Dublin, remained related to Ireland.*

*James Joyce rejected Catholicism, political and cultural nationalism and all Ireland, but his soul was not separated from Ireland. His novel A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man reflects the Irish society and all the novel is about Ireland. Throughout the novel, Joyce revealed his own struggle to find his identity.*

*In this chapter, I will reveal Joyce's opinions towards his society and the concept of Irishness. We will also see the common faces between Joyce and the hero of his novel Stephen Dedalus. Through the novel, we will discover the hidden emotions and opinions of James Joyce.*

## 1. How is the Irish Society described in the Novel:

*Although James Joyce spent most of his life in exile, he remained faithful to Ireland. In the novel, Joyce revealed the secrets of the streets of Dublin to achieve self-definition.*

*Ireland is all about religion and politics and through the novel, we discover many sides of the Irish society.*

### 1.1 The Catholic Ireland

*Joyce lived the Catholic life again through the hero of the novel, Stephen Dedalus. Stephen lives a struggle between the strict Catholic education and his personal desires. The Church controls personal thoughts, the intellectual and social life of every individual in Ireland.*

*Many rituals of Catholics are revealed in the novel such as: The Holy Trinity, a Roman Catholic dogma which is very important to the Church. The principle of faith is based on the existence of the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.*

*Mortal Sin (which is doing something against the will of God); you can die if you do it. All Catholics are obliged or supposed to confess to a priest in order to be forgiven. The sin follows the person who commits it even when he dies because his soul is going to live in an eternal hell. The seven deadly sins are lust, anger, gluttony, covetousness, envy, pride and sloth. It is well explained during the sermon of Father Arnall about hell in chapter three of the novel.*

*And also, the Sacrament which is a Catholic ceremony as baptism. There is the Sacrament of communion which is a ceremony of sharing bread and wine. Confession must precede the ritual of Communion and both are required at least once a year at Easter (the celebration of Christ's resurrection).*

*Sacrilege, is treating a holy thing badly. It is a very big sin, even some one like Stephen who is courageous enough to rebel, is going to think twice before doing it. In addition to this, there is Heresy which is a belief or thought that is completely different from religion. In chapter two Stephen is accused of Heresy by his teacher of English because of a sentence in his essay. That is one reason why Stephen rejects his religion: Religion controls even the thoughts of people.*

*Stephen's family reflects the lives of Catholics in Ireland. Catholic families are very strict and religious. Catholics teach their children to worship God without asking questions. For example, the young Stephen says that when he grows up, he will marry his Protestant friend Eileen, and immediately his mother orders him to apologize. It is forbidden for a Catholic to marry a non-Catholic and Dante\* also frightens Stephen and tells him that he has to apologize, "if not, the eagles will come and pull out his eyes". Children in Catholic families do not have the right to speak, they just follow adults.*

*Catholic children have to be educated by Jesuits, (members of the Society of Jesus) in Jesuits schools which were one of the most prestigious schools in Dublin. Jesuits schools do not provide children with just a good education, but also with a religious atmosphere. In such schools, sermons are programmed to teach the students Catholic principles. The concept of sin and confession is very important in the Catholic society. Christmas and Easter are sacred celebrations for Catholics. For example, when Stephen rejects his religion, he refuses to join his family in Easter.*

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*\* \*Dante is the governess of the Dedalus house*

## 1.2 Ireland and politics

*Ireland was living in troubles as it is explained in the first chapter. In spite of this, Irish families taught their children to die loyal to this country.*

*In the nineteenth century Catholic priests began to regain their power over the Irish. They put down the nationalist Parnell because of adultery (and I have mentioned this in the previous Chapter). Ireland was already divided between Catholics and Protestants, unionists*

*and anti-Unionists and the death of Parnell divided Ireland into pro-Parnell and anti-Parnell.*

*In the Dedalus family, Dante represents one part of Ireland. She is a devoted Catholic with the two hair brushes one for Parnell and the other for Davitt. When the Church condemns Parnell, she rejects him. Dante says in the Christmas dinner "He was no longer worthy to lead. . . He was a public sinner". Mr. Dedalus and his friend John Casey\* represents the other part of Ireland which is pro-Parnell. They hate the priests because they are the cause of the downfall of Parnell. John Casey says about the priests "Let them leave politics alone. . . or the people may leave their church alone"<sup>9</sup>.*

*Every individual in Ireland fought for the independence of his country in his own way.*

*Students at university defended their independence of Gaelic culture and rejected the English*

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<sup>9</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, p.43.

<sup>\*\*</sup> *John Casey is a close friend of the Dedalus family. He is loyal to Parnell and he was jailed because he was involved in pro-Parnell demonstrations. He represents the revolutionaries who later organized the Sinn Féin.*

<sup>10</sup> *A Portrait as a Young Man*, p.43.

*Culture and literature. The Irish believed in their country and fought for her. As Davin, a friend of Stephen says "... a man's country comes first. Ireland first..."*

*Joyce also described Dublin and her dark slimy streets which were ugly and smelt bad, but Dublin was also beautiful with the eighteenth century Georgian brick houses and many attractive monuments. In addition to the natural beauty of Dublin Bay, there is the outlet of the River Liffey.*

*James Joyce saw Ireland as a prison and he could not live in such a society. He tried to find his Irish identity in the middle of the troubles of Ireland and then he searched for his identity in exile.*

## **2. James Joyce and the Irish Identity**

*James Joyce was born in 1882 in Dublin, a traditional city. He lived under the pressure of Catholicism, the British rule and the rise of nationalism. However, he refused to be involved in the Irish society and remained an outsider in his own country. We can see many sides of Joyce through the hero of his novel, Stephen Dedalus. Through the stream of consciousness, Joyce revealed his inner feelings and emotions. Stephen Dedalus represents a big part of Joyce's feelings and experiences. For example, we observe through the novel that Joyce the boy of fourteen years old sleeps with prostitutes as his first sexual experience. And he is the one who fears hell and decides to be a priest and to be devoted to Catholicism after a sermon in his school about hell and sins.*

*In the university, the classmates of Joyce wanted cultural and intellectual independence from Britain by supporting Irish literature and language. The students were members of the Gaelic League. Joyce was still an outsider and did not support any nationalist*

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*1111ibid. p206.*



movement. At the age of twenty, Joyce escaped from his family, the Church and all Ireland.

Joyce was asked how long he had been away from Dublin and he answered "Have I ever left it?"<sup>12</sup>. Joyce loved his family and he had a good relationship with them, but he fled because they put him in a maze.

From the beginning of Joyce's life, he was told by his family to live and die Irish. For example, through a story, the father told his son to follow the Catholic Ireland. "Once upon a time... named tuckee..."<sup>13</sup>.

Joyce also did not have the right to play with Protestants because Catholics were not supposed to have any kind of relationship with Protestants. In the school, Joyce could not play with his classmates because he was told not to do so.

In addition, Joyce's education was oriented by his father; he had to be educated in Jesuit Schools. Even when he decided to go to the university, his family did not support the idea. Joyce was imprisoned and could not live as he wanted. He could not be an artist, if he could not free himself from his family.

He also escaped from the Catholic Church, but he had always admired the intellectual and artistic face of the Church.

Joyce could not be an artist till he went away from Dublin because the situation in Europe was stable and more appropriate. This would help him achieve his artistic goals. The great poet Yeats\* liked Joyce and tried to make him join the Irish intellectuals in their missions which is nationalism, but Joyce refused. Joyce rejected the British rule, but he did

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12<sup>12</sup> Levin, Harry. *James Joyce: A Critical Introduction*. Norfolk: New Directions Publishing Corporation. 1960. p1.

13<sup>13</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. p19.

not want to be involved in any nationalist movement. Joyce said that "he felt Yeats and his group viewed the Irish past too romantically and viewed its present with too much nationalism"<sup>14</sup>

Joyce was not part of the Celtic revival as Yeats and many others. Joyce and Yeats agreed on the importance of the Irish to work for a clearer identity, but disagreed on how to do it. Joyce believed that he was not obliged to speak Irish in order to have an Irish identity. He tried to learn Irish, but it was not necessary for him to speak Irish.

Joyce was trapped and he could not really escape Ireland. In Trieste, he wrote *Dubliners*, a series of fifteen short stories based on Irish experiences and epiphanies.

*Epiphany* is a short moment of sudden revelation that can change your entire life.

Joyce also continued to write a novel which he had started in Ireland entitled at the beginning "Stephen Hero" and turned to be *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.

Joyce wrote to his wife Nora Barnacle in 1904 and said that he was "fighting a battle with every religious and social force in Ireland"<sup>15</sup>. He resisted all the influences of Ireland that could make him a victim of his country.

Joyce did not believe in both cultural and political nationalism. He believed that "the most appealing and dangerously seductive form of solidarity in Irish conditions was that offered by Irish nationalism. . ."<sup>16</sup>

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\* \* William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) is an Irish poet and dramatist. He is one of the brilliant figures of twentieth century literature.

14<sup>14</sup> Harry Levin. P<sub>3</sub>

15<sup>15</sup> Schwarze, Tracey Teets. *Joyce and the Victorians*. Florida: University Press of Florida, 2002. p19.

*Joyce saw that all Ireland was divided, even small towns. So, there was no place for cultural revival. Organizations for cultural reservations such as: The Society for the Preservation of Irish Language (1876), the Gaelic Athletic Association (1884), the National Literary Society (1892), the Gaelic League (1893), the Irish Literary Theatre (1899) and the Irish National Theatre Society (1902) had as aim national unity and the revival of Irish culture. But Joyce did not believe in them because in his vision, they were not strong enough to face Britain. Joyce said that we do not preserve Ireland from the British by organizing movements for the Gaelic language. It was necessary to be united and produce a brilliant literature in any language that reflected the beauty of Ireland. He agreed with cultural movements in just one point which was the role of the artist to regain the Irish identity.*

*Joyce believed in Irish identity, but he did not believe in nationalist movements. You do not have to be Irish to defend Ireland*

*to tell the truth, to exclude from the present nation all who are descended from foreign families would be impossible, and to deny the name to patriots to all those who are not of Irish stock would be. . . Theobald Wolfe Tone and Naper Tandy, leaders of the uprising of 1798, Thomas Davis and John Mitchel, leaders of the Young Ireland movement, Isaac Butt. . . and finally Charles Stewart Parnell, who was perhaps the most formidable man. . . but in whose veins there was not even a drop of Celtic blood'*

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1616 Attridge, Derek, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to James Joyce*. 2<sup>nd</sup>. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004. p29.

1717 Tracey Teets Schwarz. p37.

*Joyce's rejection of the Catholic Ireland and his devotion to art was well-known. However, as we have seen, he did not get his full independence from Ireland. He was formed by Ireland and he was influenced by Irish writers who failed in getting their independence from Ireland; a country which lost half of her population, her language and identity could not produce her own art.*

*Ireland betrayed herself; it is not the English who betrayed Ireland. Ireland was the cause of the downfall of her people. Joyce was obsessed with the idea of betrayal. The Irish history is a series of self-betrayal. He said "Ireland has remained faithful to that faithless master only because she has been incapable of remaining faithful to her true self"<sup>18</sup>*

*The most important of Joyce's Irish artists that he had admired was Clarence Mangan\* who gave many things to Ireland, but who was ignored by his country when he died, like Parnell.*

*Joyce was also influenced by the Irish artist, Oscar Wilde\*\*. Ireland sold the soul of Wilde to the British and Wilde fell down.*

*Parnell, the hero of Joyce was also betrayed by his country. In his 1912 essay, Joyce said that "they [the Irish] did not throw him [Parnell] to the English wolves, they tore*

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1818 Derek Attridge. p40.

\* \* James Clarence Mangan (1803-1849) an Irish poet, most of his poetry is political. He wrote his works in a great sense of nationalism.

\* \* \* Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) an Irish writer and poet. One of his popular works is the novel The Picture of Dorian Gray.

him to pieces themselves”<sup>19</sup>. And the incident of Parnell’s downfall and how the Irish priests betrayed him is described in the first chapter of the novel *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* from page 38 to 51. Joyce also wrote an essay about Parnell “The Shade of Parnell” in 1912. Catholicism opposed any nationalist movement and destroyed Parnell. All Ireland became a prison for Joyce: it was not the right place for an artist.

The Irish had to blame themselves, not the British. Ireland sold herself to Britain.

In Joyce’s novel Mr. Casey says “Didn’t the bishops of Ireland betray us in the time of the union... Didn’t the bishops and priests sell the aspirations of their country in 1892 in return for Catholic emancipation? Didn’t they denounce the Fenian movement... ”<sup>20</sup>.

He also says “the priests... broke Parnell’s heart and hounded him into grave”<sup>21</sup>.

Another example is that, the Irish parliament did not know that they needed change amongst themselves, they believed the change had to be within the British as breaking the veto in the House of Lords. Joyce tried to find his true identity in his society, but he failed. Maybe he felt Irish in exile more than in his own nation. Throughout the life of Joyce in Ireland, he lived as an outsider. When Joyce was a boy, he did not play with his classmates and that’s why he developed his senses. In the novel, Joyce/Stephen is with his friends on the beach and he does not swim with them, he just watches them. They seem to him that they are drowning in the heart of Irish problems and he does not want to be part of this society. Another example, when Joyce/Stephen is in the university discussing with his friends, one of them says to him “I’m an

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1919 Tracey Teets Schwarz. p34

20 *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. p49.

21 *ibid.* p45

*Irish nationalist. . . But that's you all out". His friend also tells him "Try to be one of us". He escaped from Ireland, but all his works of art are related to the internal affairs of Ireland and speak of Dublin.*

*Events which happened hundreds years ago were important for the Irish as if they happened yesterday. Joyce did not like this relationship between the Irish and their past. He wanted to create a future separated from the unhappy past of his country.*

*Stephen tries to separate himself from the past and the present and looks forward to a brilliant future for Ireland through art. In fact, Joyce escaped from his land, but he could not forget his past.*

*All Joyce's works are related to Ireland with its past, present and future.*

*Through the analysis of Joyce's works and opinions, we know more about the conflict of the Irish identity. Throughout many centuries Ireland has been controlled by England and many people fought and died for the independence of their country.*

*No Irish writer can separate himself from Ireland. So, through the works of art, we discover the Irish opinions and feelings about politics, Gaelic revival, Ireland's past and Irish identity.*

### 3. James Joyce and Stephen Dedalus

*James Joyce and the hero of his novel Stephen Dedalus share common things and differ in many others because many faces of Stephen are fictional.*

*The younger brother of Joyce said that A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man is a "a lying autobiography and a raking satire"<sup>22</sup>.*

*Joyce selected incidents of his own life and parts of his own psychology to create the*

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<sup>22</sup> Harry Levin. p1.

*fictional character Stephen. Stephen and Joyce have many aspects in common.*

*They both lived in a strict family and they received a religious education. They were citizens of the capital of Ireland which was controlled by the British.*

*Like Stephen, Joyce was the eldest son of his family. He also had a good economic situation when he was born in 1882, but this changed when his drinking father lost his job after the downfall of Parnell. He attended the Jesuit school, Clongowes College at the age of six. In 1891 Joyce was obliged to change the school because his family could no more pay for such a school. Father Conmee, the ex rector of Clongowes Wood College helped Joyce to join the Belvedere College where he became the prefect of studies.*

*Stephen's/Joyce's father was a great supporter of Parnell and this is defined in the debate of the Christmas dinner in chapter one of the novel.*

*Mr. Dedalus says "when [Parnell] was down they turned on him to betray him and rend him like rats in a sewer".<sup>23</sup>*

*In addition, they changed a lot houses because the father did not pay the rent bills, but Joyce was patient with his father more than Stephen. Stephen and Joyce both had a beautiful voice and a musical talent which had always been linked to their talent for language.*

*Through Stephen, Joyce revealed his hidden emotions and thoughts. Both Joyce and Stephen were outsiders in their societies from the beginning of their lives.*

*In the novel, Stephen is an outsider in his school. He does not speak or play with his classmates. Even when he decides to be a priest, he feels that it is not his place and that is not part of this life. When Stephen discovers also that his alcoholic father is the cause of the*

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<sup>23</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. p45.

financial troubles of his family, he turns to be an outsider in his own family.

At the age of fourteen, Stephen and Joyce rebelled against religion and they began their sexual lives. They slept with prostitutes and enjoyed the "life of the dark."

Troubles in Ireland left a remarkable print on Dublin and their citizens. The most difficult crisis that Dublin ever lived was its relation with England. From the twelfth century England controlled parts of Ireland and in the sixteenth century controlled all the island. This hatred between Ireland and England grew more under King Henry VIII, when the English ruling class became Protestant while all Ireland was Catholic.

Stephen/Joyce liked Michael Davitt and Parnell that introduced Land League and Irish Home Rule. In Stephen/Joyce's youths, they supported these people who worked for cultural independence and kept Gaelic culture and also worked for national independence.

Parnell died when Stephen/Joyce was nine and this is described in chapter one of the novel. "He saw [Brother Michael] lift his hands towards the people and heard him say in a loud voice of sorrow over the water:

-He is dead. We saw him lying upon the catafalque.

A wail of sorrow went up from the people.

-Parnell! Parnell! He is dead!

They fell upon their knees, meaning in sorrow"<sup>24</sup>

The students of the university wanted cultural and intellectual independence from Britain by supporting Irish literature and language. Stephen/Joyce's classmates were members of the Gaelic League, but he was an outsider and did not support these movements. Stephen/Joyce lived in the troubles of Ireland and saw her history unhappy.

Stephen/Joyce saw Ireland as a prison and had to escape leaving the matter for people like his

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<sup>24</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, p.38.



friend, Davin. Ireland was not an appropriate place for an artist because of religion and

political troubles. Ireland sold her Irish identity for the English. Ireland betrayed also the ones who fought for her independence like Parnell.

Ireland did not represent the right atmosphere for artistic creation. Ireland was divided between pro-Parnell and anti-Parnell, Catholics and Protestants, nationalists and unionists. Europe was a better place for artistic devotion. Joyce did not want to be part of the political and cultural movements because Ireland and religion destroyed all the heroes like Parnell. "Ireland is the old sow that eats her farrow" <sup>25</sup>

Stephen/Joyce remained silent towards Irish politics and events, but he expressed his ideas when he went to the university. In the novel when Mac Cann, a friend of Stephen asks him to sign a petition, Stephen answers "Will you pay me anything if I sign?" and Mac Cann says "I thought you were an idealist" <sup>26</sup>. Idealism for the Irish was only political idealism. To be idealist was to be a nationalist. Stephen/Joyce believed that the ancestors sold their language and their land, so he was not ready to pay for the faults of the others.

Stephen says in the novel "My ancestors threw off their language and took another. . . They allowed a handful of foreigners to subject them. Do you fancy I am going to pay in my own life and person debts they made. . ." <sup>27</sup>

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25 <sup>25</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. p206.

26 <sup>26</sup> *ibid.* p199.

27 <sup>27</sup> *ibid.* pp205, 206.

*When a new generation of Irish was born and ready to fight for this land, Ireland as usual betrayed them and sold them to the British. Stephen says in the novel "No honorable and sincere man... has given up to you his life... from the days of Tone to those of Parnell but you sold him to the enemy"<sup>28</sup>. Joyce was not ready to sacrifice his blood for a country that would destroy him in any moment.*

*Joyce saw Ireland's past as a prison. At the end of the novel, Stephen writes in his journal "Welcome, O life! I go to encounter for the millionth time the reality of experience and to forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race."<sup>29</sup>*

*So, when Joyce decided to leave Ireland, he was not going to write about "the uncreated conscience" of himself, but of his race. He was leaving Ireland to create another Irish identity separated from all the internal problems.*

*At the end of the novel, when Stephen speaks with his classmates about politics and beauty, a last moment of revelation reminds him of escape: "A fine rain began to fall from the high veiled sky and they turned into the duke's lawn, to reach the national library before the shower came"<sup>30</sup>. The rain stops the stormy discussion and delivers Stephen from explanation about politics and art. In addition, rain is water which is the savior of Stephen. So when he speaks of art, the rain falls and this reminds him of the legend of Dedalus and the escape through water.*

*At the age of twenty, Joyce escaped as Stephen from his family, country and the church to*

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<sup>28</sup>*ibid.* p206.

<sup>29</sup>*ibid.* p253.

<sup>30</sup>*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. p217.

*find his way as an artist which Ireland rejected.*

*We realize then, that the novel A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man reflects the Irish society and her people at that time. Joyce described the Irish society in which the characters of his novel live. A society which was influenced by British colonialism, religion and political instability. Joyce did not portray only the artist and his development, but also the struggle of an Irish individual to find a place in his society. Joyce revealed the inner psyche of an Irish who opened all the doors of his society to find his true identity.*

*Joyce used his famous technique of stream of consciousness in which the author directly transcribes the thoughts and sensations that go through a character mind rather than describing those emotions from an external view, in addition to the use of epiphanies which helps Stephen to discover himself. Through the development of Stephen's mind, we will*

*understand better the inner search for an Irish identity, in the next chapter.*

# Chapter One

## Historical and Social Background

*Irish Nationalism is a political and social movement which had always worked for an independent Ireland. Irish nationalism is a strong sentiment which is motivated by the love for the Irish culture, language and history. The term refers to the struggle of the Irish to keep their Irish identity.*

*To understand how the spirit of nationalism emerged, we need to know its history and its roots. This chapter is going to cover the historical background of Irish nationalism. The problems of the Irish identity started with the British presence in Ireland when the English Pope Adrian IV gave the lordship of Ireland to King Henry II of England. Unlike the Normans<sup>\*\*\*</sup> or the Presbyterians<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup>, the English Protestants stood far away from Gaelic customs and Roman Catholics.*

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*\*\* Pope Adrian IV (1100-1159) born Nicholas Breakspear or Breakspere. He was pope from 1154 to 1159. He is the only English man who has occupied the papal chair.*

*\*\*\*\* Henry II (1133-1189) ruled as King of England (1154-1189). He controlled parts of Wales, Scotland and Western France. He was Lord of Ireland. He was the first to use the title "King of England".*

*\*\*\*\*\* Normans who gave their name to Normandy, a region in Northern France. They are descendants of the Vikings. They invaded Ireland in 1169.*

*\*\*\*\*\* Presbyterians is the second largest protestant group in Ireland. This group was brought by Scottish settlers to Ulster who were encouraged to emigrate by James I of England.*

*Britain divided Ireland into Catholics and Protestants, nationalists and unionists. The Anglo-Irish or the Protestants controlled every thing in Ireland. The ruling class, the land lords and every one who held an important position were Protestants. The Anglo-Irish discriminated the Irish, but Catholics did not react. In the nineteenth century, a new generation of Irish was born. This new generation believed in Irish nationalism. They fought and died for an independent Ireland. In this chapter we will see the different means the nationalist used to protect their Irish identity from aliens.*

*The chapter covers political and social troubles of Ireland. It is important to deal with the history and the evolution of Irish nationalism and identity because James Joyce lived these troubles. (Irish identity is a fundamental theme in James Joyce's novel A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.)*

*This chapter deals with the life of Catholics and the evolution of Irish Nationalism to the Easter Rising 1916, the year of the publication of James Joyce's novel.*

## 1. Catholics in Ireland

*It is important to know the life of Catholics during the British rule and their struggle with the Anglo-Irish people, the Protestants.*

*The Catholics had always said if a man wants to be happy, he should live protestant and die Catholic. What was good in Ireland was for Protestants. The Catholics never hurt Protestants. On the contrary, they protected Protestants when they escaped from England in the times of Queen Mary\*.*

*A minority of Protestants aristocrats owned five sixths of lands of Ireland. They controlled all Ireland. Catholics were abused by the minority. The Catholics did not react until the Kilkenny Confederation\*\* which developed from 1641 for religious tolerance. As the historian George W. Potter says "The Catholic Irish agitations aimed not to destroy*

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*\*\* Queen Mary, the eldest daughter of Henry VIII and the only surviving child of Catherine of Aragon. She restored Roman Catholicism after succeeding her short lived, half brother Edward VI to the English crown.*

*\*\*\*\* Confederation of Kilkenny refers to the period of Irish self government between 1641 and 1649. During this time two-thirds of Ireland was governed by the Irish Catholic confederation.*

*Protestantism, but to gain rights denied to Catholics<sup>1</sup>*

*The first Irish parliament in 1692 enacted the Penal Laws which were a series of laws against Catholics. Catholics were not allowed to have a political career or to join the army. They could not get legal or good professions. In addition, the Catholic children had to be educated in Protestant schools because Catholic schools were forbidden. The aim of these laws was to discriminate Catholics.*

*The land in Ireland was very important. The parliament divided the land of a Catholic into many blocks and shared between all male heirs. So that any Catholic could not influence politics. If the eldest son of a land owner changed his religion from Catholicism to Protestantism, he inherited all the land. The laws of land ownership decreased the lands owned by Catholics, so Catholics lost wealth, power and any legal rights. The Catholics throughout the eighteenth century had suffered a lot. Catholics were in bad situation, many of them emigrated and escaped from suffering. The Protestants succeeded in keeping the majority, inferior in Ireland.*

*In 1697 the Banishment Law was enacted to oblige all Catholic bishops and priests to leave Ireland. In 1704 all Catholic priests had to swear allegiance to the king. The priesthood in Ireland was the most national body in Ireland. The Catholic individual "believes there is nothing permanent or certain in this world but his religion. . . a religion superior to men, ages, and revolution"<sup>2</sup>. As a consequence of such laws, the Catholic priests were trained in other countries as: France, Belgium, Italy, Spain and many others. So, they saw another*

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<sup>1</sup> Petter, George W. *To The Golden Door: The Story of Irish in Ireland and America*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1960. p72.

<sup>2</sup> George W. Petter. p75



world and began to work for political emancipation. As an example of Catholic inferiority, a Protestant archbishop had an income of 20,000 pounds a year and a Catholic archbishop had an income of 800 pounds a year.

Catholics felt inferior in their own country, they were abused by the established church of Protestants. In 1756, Catholics organized a committee as a petition of the grievances of Catholics.

Although many laws were removed, protestants enjoyed their superiority in all the fields. The Irish were deprived from civil and religious rights except members of the Anglican Church.

Inter marriages were also unacceptable. We will see in Joyce's novel that was unacceptable to speak about inter marriages in Ireland. It was even forbidden for a young Catholic to play with Protestants.

The Irish language was turning to be weaker and weaker, and any one who owned old or ancient native Irish books was severely punished. As Potter says "a minority elite seized the Land belonging to the indigenous majority established political and administrative super structures on the model of the mother country, but entirely in their own interest"<sup>3</sup>

In the Northern countries of Ulster, a secret society was organized which was the Orange society. This society was made of only Protestants. Their aim was to keep the British crown and keep Catholics inferior in their own land. The Orange men had a slogan "to hell with the pope!". The society outraged Catholics.

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<sup>3</sup> *ibid.* p74.

<sup>4</sup> George W. Potter. p100.

*When the Catholics began to react, Britain introduced the Act of Union in 1801. Britain feared any kind of revolution that could threaten her interests.*

## 2. The Act of Union

*Ireland joined Britain which became the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. So, the aristocratic rule in Ireland ended with the Act of Union. Dublin turned from a good capital to an unstable city and the Parliament House became the new Bank of Ireland. The British crown used the Catholics to turn the Irish to her side. Thanks to the Act of Union, Britain got rid of the three issues that frightened the British. The first was a revolution in Ireland or England. The second, the French invasion of Ireland and finally an economic competition between Ireland and England. But in fact, the British brought for themselves bigger problems.*

*Britain faced many problems from where she could govern Ireland, from Westminster or from College Green. The unstable parliament of Britain governed Ireland till 1832, but they succeeded in finding some solutions for Catholics' problems. With the Reform Act of 1832, the middle class had some political power.*

*There were 660 members in the Union House of Commons, but just 100 of them were Irish. For almost 30 years, the Irish members represented the neglected classes. However when Daniel O'Connell emerged, he worked for more powerful Irish representation.*

*After more than a century, the Irish began to work to turn the Act of Union. The country was governed by the minority, the Protestants, because the Irish were given hundreds of seats*

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*\*\* Daniel O'Connell (1775-1847) an Irish political leader who campaigned for Catholic emancipation; the right for Catholics to sit in Westminster Parliament.*

in the British parliament, but for Protestants. Daniel O'Connell founded the Catholic Association in 1823 to bring an electoral reform. The Penal Laws were abolished and Catholics had the right to vote. So, Catholic emancipation was fulfilled.

Throughout the history of Britain and Ireland, all the British kings and leaders were supported by Protestant landlords. So, they supported Protestants and neglected Catholics. However, the British Prime Minister Gladstone tried to work for the benefit of Ireland. He disestablished the church of Ireland to free Catholics from paying tithes to the Church.

The nationalist sentiment began to emerge and Ireland became really divided between Catholics and Protestants, unionists and nationalists. The British lived with the threat of a free Irish state, because the Irish began to have a strong reaction. However, the nationalist movement found many obstacles and the Great Famine was one of them.

### 3. The Great Famine

Ireland was a 4 1/2 millions nation, and more than a half were living in bad situation. The Majority of Irish families depended on potato crop. But there was a big failure of potato crop from 1845 to 1848 and the result was the Great Famine of 1848.

Ireland collapsed after the Great Famine. Millions of people died and many others emigrated mainly to America. In 1852, there were two hundred and twenty thousand emigrants. The Irish in America worked hard to live without the help of England and sent money for their families in Ireland to join them. The money provided from Irish emigrants to political movements helped a lot the Irish cause and all the world heard of Irish problems.

The repeal of Corn Laws<sup>\*</sup> allowed cheap corn to enter Ireland. Many Irish were left without

\*\* Corn Laws were import tariffs enacted to protect corn prices in the United Kingdom against competition from less expensive foreign imports between 1815 and 1846.

*jobs and many towns and areas were depressed.*

*With the Encumbered Estates Act\*\* , land lords used their power to discriminate their tenants.*

*The Great famine affected also the Gaelic language and traditions. The number of people who spoke Irish decreased. The places which kept the Gaelic language were few in number as: Munster, Connacht and other sea board cities. Another factor which led the Gaelic language to its end was the use of English by political leaders such as O'Connell. The Catholic Church also did not support the Irish language. So, the English language became the language of politics, religion and all the people.*

*During and after the Great Famine, the land lords were harder with their tenants and did not recognize any of their rights. In 1850 the Tenant Right League was founded to secure the tenants' rights. A new generation in Ireland was born to fight for their freedom in different ways. These nationalists also got the support of Irish emigrants to start a new chapter in Irish history.*

#### **4. The rise of the Nationalist Movement:**

*There were two important aspects in the nationalist movement which were land and home rule. But every one fought in his own way. There was constitutional nationalism and revolutionary nationalism.*

##### **4.1 The Constitutional nationalism:**

*Though the Penal Laws were abolished, Catholics did not get the right to be members of*

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*\*\*\* The act (1849) led the sale of estates by debt-ridden to owners who rented their property and lived out of their property.*

Parliament. Protestants monopolized the high positions in judiciary, military and civil services. Two bills of Catholic emancipation were passed, the first in 1821 and the other in 1825 in the House of Commons, but the House of Lords rejected the bills. O'Connell founded an association in 1823. He succeeded in getting Catholic emancipation in 1829. So, the Irish could vote and elect the members of parliament who work for their benefit. O'Connell tried to introduce the Home Rule, but he was not supported by the British MPs. Only the wealthy could vote. O'Connell was loyal to Queen Victoria and he wanted a self-government parliament under the British Crown.

In 1870, Isaac Butt, a Protestant member of parliament, founded the Home Government Association in Dublin. He had the same ideas of O'Connell. The idea of self-government was known as "Home Rule". The Home Rule League emerged in 1873. Butt founded the Irish Parliamentary Party. He believed that Ireland had to govern herself and to leave other things for Westminster as: Trade, army, navy and foreign policy. The secret Ballot Act of 1872 helped the tenants to vote without any fear of their lords. At the General Election of 1874, Butt entered the British parliament with 59 supporters. The Irish members of parliament became increasingly powerful.

Mr. Gladstone, the prime minister of Britain was a supporter of Ireland and he tried to find solutions for the Irish question. In 1870 he introduced a Land Act which gave legal force to the Ulster custom in the other provinces and gave some legal right for tenants.

The Irish parliamentary party succeeded when Parnell became its leader in 1880.

Charles Stewart Parnell was a protestant Anglo-Irish man who believed strongly in the Irish nationalism. In April 1875, Parnell was elected member in Butt's party. In 1876, he had a famous reaction in the House of Commons when the Chief Secretary for Ireland who spoke of the Manchester murderers in a bad way. His reaction made him a hero in the eyes of both, the Irish and the British.

30 Irish members under the leadership of Parnell won seats in the General Election 1880. They were ready to be independent from Britain in all possible ways within the laws. Parnell was different from the previous leaders of the nationalist movement. His loyalty to Ireland was like that of some old aristocratic leaders. His aim was to see Ireland an independent country. Though, he was Protestant, Catholics supported him. As we will see in the next chapter, the Catholic family of Joyce's novel is a great supporter of Parnell. The Protestant nationalist is the idol of the novel's hero. Parnell worked to get the support of Irish emigrants, for example in 1880 he collected 20,000 Pounds for the party. He linked political independence to the issue of land. He believed that every tenant had to own his own farm and the old system had to be abolished. So, he got the support of nationalists and farmers.

In 1879, he helped Michael Davitt to form the Land League. Davitt was of a tenant family and he believed that the fight for the land was equal to the national question. He was elected as Chair man of the Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain in 1877 and Chair man of the Irish party in the House of Commons. The Irish National League was also founded in 1882. Parnell said that leading Davitt was "meant riding a tiger"<sup>5</sup> because Davitt was a supporter of both constitutional and violent nationalism.

The Land League of Davitt used boycotts and a campaign of "No Rent" to abolish landlordism. The harvest of 1879 was the worst since the Great Famine. In 1880 there were 2590 agrarian outrages and between 1874 and 1881 some ten thousand evictions. The peasants "wild justice of revenge" displayed itself in the shooting of many land lords and their agents. Many wanted to gain their independence by assassination. In 1881, the Land Act was enacted to secure for the tenants the three fs (fair rents, fixity of tenure and free sale). The leaders of the Tenant Right Convention insisted on the right of tenants to be the owners of the land. The

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55 Ward, Alan J. *The Easter Rising: Revolution and Irish Nationalism*. Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, 2003. p48.

*Catholics started to become more powerful.*

*In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Catholics took the power and the Roman Catholic Church influenced politics. Some thing happened which caused the downfall of Parnell which was his relationship with O'Shea. He had an affair with O'Shea, the wife of Captain Henry O'Shea, a member of the Irish Home Rule. In 1890, Parnell refused to step down from the leadership, but the Irish clergy declared against his leadership and forced him to step down.*

*He died in 1891 and left Ireland divided between pro-Parnell and anti-Parnell. In 1898, the United Irish League was founded; most of its members were anti-Parnell.*

*The death of Parnell left also the family of Joyce's novel divided between pro-Parnell and anti-Parnell. The division is well described in the Christmas dinner in chapter one of the novel.*

#### **4.2 The Revolutionary nationalism:**

*This is another part of nationalism which used force to gain the independence of Ireland. This kind of nationalism was not popular till 1916.*

*What motivated the revolutionaries was their hatred for Britain more than their love for their country. John Mitchel, one of the revolutionaries, said to his friend "I have found that there was perhaps less of love than hate"*

*The revolutionary movement emerged with the Society of United Irish Men which was founded by middle class Protestants as Wolfe Tone\*, Robert Emmet\*\* and many others. There*

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66 *Alan J. Ward. p62.*

*\*\* Theobald Wolfe Tone (1763-1798) known as Wolfe Tone. He was a leading figure in the United Irish Men. He was sentenced to death for his participation in the rebellion of 1798.*

were also secret societies as the Catholic "Defenders" and the Protestants "Peep O' day Boys" turned to be the Orange Society in 1795.

There was also a rebellion in May 1798, but it failed. And in 1803, another suspected attack in Dublin was to become true with just 300 volunteers.

Revolutionary nationalism revived in 1848 and the Young Ireland movement was founded. John Mitchel said in his newspaper "The United Irish Man", revolution is needed in Ireland. In 1848 there was another rebellion against the British, but it was a failure.

The Young Ireland movement was associated with O'Connell repeal agitation in the early 1840s. Young Irelanders were talented people who could form a brilliant political group. However, after the rebellion of 1848 they went away to other countries. The Young Irelanders who remained in Ireland were arrested and the others were sentenced to death. They failed in their movement, but they had had a remarkable contribution.

In 1858 James Stephens (1825-1901) founded the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). Many emigrants in America who fought for the American civil war returned home to fight for their cause. Another organization was founded which was the Fenian Brotherhood<sup>2</sup>. Members of Fenianism were both Irish and Irish American. In 1873, the IRB and the Fenians were united under a single leadership of seven members. Fenianism was opposed by both constitutional nationalists and the Catholic Church. Most of the members of Fenianism were Catholics, so they kept it secret from their priests or tried to find confidential priests. The Roman Catholic Church had always opposed secret societies and violence in Ireland.

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\*\*\* Robert Emmet (1778-1803) was a revolutionary nationalist. He led a rebellion against the British in 1803.

\* Fenianism is a Gaelic word for soldiers led by Finn McCool in legendary times.



*The Fenian rising appeared in Ireland in 1867. Several thousand men led by an Irish American, Thomas J. Kelly\*\* attempted rising in Dublin, Cork and many other places. The government easily suppressed them in a few days and did not execute the revolutionaries in order to avoid Fenian martyrs. The organization was crushed by the government. Many of Fenians were jailed for life and others were sentenced to death. For example, three Irish men were hanged because they tried to free two Fenian prisoners in Manchester in November 1867 and they were called "the Manchester Martyr".*

*In 1870s, Fenianism failed at the end because the American Church had joined the Church of Ireland to break the organization. So, many of Fenians went to other nationalist Organization, one of them was Sinn Fein.*

*Sinn Fein was founded by Arthur Griffith, the editor of the United Irish Man. He used the news paper to introduce his ideas which were originally formed by the Young Irelanders and O'Connell. He wanted a withdrawal of Irish representation from Westminster and the creation of an Irish government that could prevent England from controlling Ireland.*

*Sinn Fein believed that the Irish had to follow the Hungarian nationalists who won their independence in 1861 when they refused to send Hungarian members to the Austrian Imperial Parliament. In 1905 Griffith formed with a group of members of the IRB "the Dungannon Clubs" the Sinn Fein which is an Irish word for "ourselves".*

*The Sinn Fein did not succeed in constitutional nationalism. For example, one of its members failed to get a seat in parliament in 1908 by-election. However, they had a remarkable support mainly between 1908 and 1910. After the Easter Rising, the Sinn Fein became officially the political wing of the revolutionary movement. The organization decided to put the withdrawal from the British parliament into practice. The Sinn Fein remains till*

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*\*\*\* Thomas J. Kelly (1833-1908) an Irish revolutionary and a leader of the Irish Republican Brotherhood*

today a political party and the political wing of the Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland and its members still refuse to take seats in the parliament. The IRB continued also to work and it launched a news paper "Irish Freedom", so that the public could know their ideas.

The revolutionaries were inspired by the American and the French revolutions. This growing sentiment of nationalism exploded in another group of people, the unionists.

## 5. The Unionists vs. the Nationalists:

Ireland was divided between nationalists who wanted an independent Ireland and the unionists who wanted to keep Ireland under the British crown.

The Act of Union 1801 was a fundamental constitution that could not be amended or removed easily. The Act of Union aimed to keep Ireland under the British crown, but a new generation of Irish wanted to break this union. Britain was afraid from this generation of anti-unionists. Liberals refused to call for a general election to test the public opinion about this matter.

Unionists prepared a plan for their resistance. Sir Edward Carson, a member of parliament for Dublin University became the leader of the Ulster Unionists in 1911. The Ulster Unionists Council was formed in 1905. In 1911; the Council prepared a provisional government that could control Ulster if Home Rule bill was passed. In 1925 five hundred thousand Protestants signed the Ulster Covenant to oppose Home Rule by force. The officers of the Curragh army base, West of Dublin, said that they were going to resign their commissions rather than to put down a unionist rebellion. The government saw the arrest of the unionist leaders "Ulster Rabble" illegal. Half a million unionist men and women held arms and prepared to fight for the union.

One hundred thousand Irish national volunteers opposed the same number of Ulster

*volunteers, but with differences in weapons. This could cause a civil war in Ireland.*

*Nationalists and unionists were preparing themselves for a war. The Prime Minister Asquith feared a nationalist revolution if Home Rule was not passed. He tried to solve the problem secretly. He saw that the best solution for Ireland was to divide her. One part could be governed from Dublin and the other remained part of the United Kingdom.*

## 6. Easter Rising 1916

*April 24, 1916 was Easter Monday, a public holiday. People of Dublin went to the city for the Fairy house races and others were visiting the Royal Dublin Society show. It was a nice and calm day, but every thing changed because of a rebellion in the city.*

*A week after, thousands were left homeless, factories and shops were closed. The third of the population was on public relief and many others died. The leaders of the rebellion were arrested, in spite of a campaign against the use of the army in Ireland in 1914.*

*The Irish were anti-war, they decided not to fight with others and their country was not yet independent. The Irish patriots thought that they could use the anti-war weapon to free their country. Many of them were deported, but the Irish Chief Secretary, Augustine Birrell opposed all violent actions against the dissidents. He feared that this crisis would weaken Britain. So, Britain excluded the Irish from conscription in January 1916. This did not hurt Britain because there were many Irish volunteers for the army. Ireland also provided Britain with food and workers for the factories. In addition, anti-war activists were few in number. The dissidents were known as "Sinn Feiners".*

*On Easter Saturday, there was a distinguished German merchant ship carrying weapons and ammunitions to the dissidents. The captain sunk the ship at Queenstown (Cobh now, outside Cork in the South of Ireland). In addition, Sir Roger Casement was seen from German*

*sub-Marine in Tralee Bay, South West of Ireland. Britain saw that there was a connection between the enemy Germany and Ireland.*

*The Lord Wimborne, the Lord lieutenant of Ireland and Sir Matthew Nathan, the Irish under secretary and head of Irish administration asked for a permission to arrest the Sinn Fein leaders, but it was too late. While they were waiting for the permission, the first shots were heard on the Easter Rising on April 24 and the castle was under fire.*

*Dublin was not prepared for such a rebellion. General Friend, the Commander in Chief in Ireland was in London. Twenty four hundred soldiers were in the city but only 400 were on duty. At mid day, the commander in chief of the Irish Republican Forces, Patrick Pearse and his deputy led their volunteers into action.*

*One small group over powered the single sentry on duty outside the Phoenix Park Magazine Fort and eleven men stationed inside. They have taken away arms and ammunition and a small store of arms was fired. This blow was the beginning of the Rising.*

*The leaders of the rebellion waited for a German help, but Germany did not supply any arms or troops. The weapons also sunk in Queenstown. There was also an internal struggle between the leaders of the rebellion; about 800 volunteers did not obey any order. They were supported by cooks and nurses. They were also supported by republican women's organization and by messengers from Fianna Eireann, a republican boy-scout organization. The Rising despite of the difficulties lasted six days.*

*The republicans wore the uniforms of the 200 Irish Citizen Army which was the militia of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union and the others wore the uniforms of the Irish Volunteers organization.*

*It was easy for the republicans in 1916 to attack the Castle because there was only one member of the police on duty. They killed the police and they found just six soldiers in the guard room and 25 soldiers were in the Castle garrison. The republicans retreated to the*

*buildings the Dublin City Hall, because they were fired on Tuesday.*

*Many buildings were easily captured as the Castel and the Phoenix Park Magazine Fort. The*

*Rising ended when the rebels surrendered the next Saturday.*

*The first chapter has dealt with the political and social background of Ireland from the beginning of the Irish-British relationships.*

*It has shown the atmosphere of the Irish society at that time and the important*

*events which are related to Joyce's novel A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.*

*There were many problems in Ireland and her inhabitants suffered a lot. James Joyce as many*

*Irish struggled to find a place in such a society. Joyce escaped from nationalism and religion to hide in his world of words.*

*No Irish can avoid the history of his country. James Joyce escaped from the internal affairs of Ireland and spent most of his life in exile, but he could not write as an outsider. The human being is produced by a specific social context. So, all the Irish troubles affected James Joyce and his hero, Stephen Dedalus.*

*In the next chapter we will see how the Irish society is described in the novel and how an Irish individual struggles to find his identity.*

## Chapter Three

### Stephen Dedalus and the Search for Identity

*The hero of James Joyce's novel passes through many experiences to find his true identity. Through the technique of the stream of consciousness, Joyce revealed the inner emotions and thoughts of his hero Stephen and his psychological development.*

*Many factors contribute in Stephen's development to find his own way in the Irish society such as his name, his father, religion and politics.*

*As Jameson said "human consciousness... [is] not timeless and every where essentially the same, but rather situation specific and historically produced"<sup>31</sup>*

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<sup>31</sup> Tracey Teets Schwarz, p152.

## 1. Factors that influence Stephen's Development

*The first factor which portrays the identity of Stephen is his name.*

### 1.1 The name

*The hero of the novel is named Stephen Dedalus. The problem of identity begins with this name. The name Stephen refers to Stephen, the first Christian martyr.*

*The name Dedalus is taken from the Greek myth Daedalus who made a splendid artistic creation. Daedalus means cunning worker. In the legend, Daedalus was a skillful craftsman and artisan. He designed a labyrinth which was an elaborate building for king Minos of Crete at Knossos. The function of the building was to hold the Minotaur, a creature that was half man and half bull.*

*Poseidon, God of the sea gave Minos a white bull to use it as a sacrifice, but Minos kept it for himself. So, Poseidon for revenge, made the wife of the king lust for the bull. The building was made to imprison the son of Minos's wife, the Minotaur. So, Daedalus gave the labyrinth numberless winding passages and turns that opened into another seeming to have neither beginning nor end.*

*Daedalus was shut up in a tower by the king Minos to prevent him from spreading the knowledge of the labyrinth to the public. The king kept strict watch on all the vessels and did not let anyone sail without being carefully searched. The king Minos controlled both the sea and the land.*

*Daedalus could not leave the building, so he created wings for him and for his son Icarus. He tied feathers together and made from them wings. He showed his son how to fly and warned him not to fly very high because the heat of the sun would melt the wax, nor*

too low because he would drown in the sea. However, his son Icarus forgot what his father said and he flew upward to the sun and drowned.

Joyce was always fun of old myths because they carry with them universal themes like conflicts between father and son or the role of the artist. Joyce changed the name from Daedalus to Dedalus to seem more Irish. The Daedalus name or myth is a basic structure of the novel.

Stephen at the beginning does not understand the significance of his name whether it is Irish or Greek. A boy in Stephen's school, Nasty Reche asked him "What is your name? Stephen had answered: - Stephen Dedalus then Nasty Reche had said: - What kind of name is that?... Stephen had not been able to answer. . ."<sup>32</sup>

Until chapter four Stephen realizes that he is caught in a maze as Daedalus and he has to escape. Stephen decides to fly with his words and his devotion to Art to escape. The name Daedalus makes him think of escape and creativity. He has to free himself like Daedalus did when he was shut up in a maze. Thanks to epiphanies, Stephen realizes that he has something special with words and he has to use them to fly high and away from Ireland.

In chapter five, Stephen decides to fly with his own wings; he uses his words to escape.

Stephen wants to be creative as Daedalus and some times he fears to be like the son Icarus who did not take the advice of his father and died. Stephen also fears that this escape will bring for him a bad end.

Stephen has the name of the father Daedalus in the legend, but in fact he is a young man (the son). At the beginning, he does not understand the significance of his name. He does

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32<sup>32</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, p21.



not understand why his is Dedalus. It is strange to be Irish and have a Greek name. A boy in the school said to him "You have a queer name, Dedalus. . . Your name is like Latin"<sup>33</sup>

Stephen does not understand what kind of relationship he has with the name Dedalus. He has the name of the father and he has the sense of rebellion like the son Icarus. He has always the question of whether he will end like the father or the son. He is creative like Daedalus and a rebel like Icarus.

"The novel is a rhythm of triumph and failure in the process of self-definition"<sup>34</sup>.

The myth also brings to the novel the idea of success and failure. Every chapter brings with it a success or failure for the son and a success or failure for the father.

The first chapter begins with a success for the father who symbolizes authority. The father tells his son that he has to obey Ireland and all her institutions through the story of the meccaw. However, it is a failure for the son who is obliged to accept everything in Ireland without saying a word. He also feels the obstacles between him and his father through the hairy face and the glasses.

The chapter ends with a success for Stephen and a failure for the father.

Father DeSan, the rector's assistant punishes Stephen for not writing (when he breaks his glasses). The Father accuses him of laziness and he obliges him to kneel in the middle of the classroom. So, he goes to the director Father Conmee to complain. Stephen is happy because he overcomes his fear. It is really a success for a young boy to reject the decision of a teacher in a Jesuit school. He even thinks of himself a second Parnell when his friends hold him on

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3333 *ibid.*, p36.

3434 Fallis, Richard. The Irish Renaissance, an Introduction to Anglo-Irish Literature. Gill and Macmillan. 1978. p148.

*their shoulders.*

*The second chapter begins with a failure for the whole family because of financial troubles. The father loses his job and the family moves from Dublin to black Rock because they could not pay the rent of the house. Stephen also has to move from Clongues Beveredge School to another Jesuit school. However, this failure carries with it a success for the father because his son is a good Catholic and student. In addition to this, Stephen helps his family with the money he gets for his good marks.*

*The chapter ends with a sin which is a great success for Stephen. Once again Stephen is searching for answers in his mind by walking through the maze of Dublin. A young prostitute steps Stephen and takes him to her room. He tries to resist because it is a mortal sin, but at the*

*end he feels comfortable. He feels happy and strong in the hands of the prostitute. Finally, he gives his body some release. It is a triumph over fear, religion and his family.*

*Chapter three continues with the sinner Stephen who finds dark peace with prostitutes. He does not commit just the sin, but he is also proud of being a sinner. He lives like a double life, he sleeps with prostitutes and at the same time, he continues to be the leader of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary; one of the college's two devotional societies which meets in church on Saturday. Stephen as a leader is supposed to observe and make sure that the rituals of confession and communion are well-done.*

*However at the end of the chapter, the rector of Belvedere announces a three-day retreat devoted to religious sermons. The retreat is in the honor of Saint Francis Xavier, a sixteenth century priest known for his missionary work in India and the far East.*

*In a sermon on hell, Father Arnall describes the horrors, the spiritual and physical tortures of hell. Stephen suffers mentally and he foreshadows the future. He feels the flames of hell on*

his body. He feels guilty, afraid and he goes to the priest to confess. Obedience is a failure for Stephen and success for his father.

In chapter four, Stephen dedicates his time for prayers and religious rituals. He punishes his senses by fasting and walking with his eyes down cast. He has to live this way in order to prevent himself from thinking of sins and going to hell. In spite of all this, Stephen feels angry with himself sometimes.

The director is impressed by the behavior of Stephen and introduces to him the idea of priesthood. He likes the idea because he likes the idea of having so much knowledge and especially the secrets of people who confess. In addition, Stephen has always been fun of superiority. But after a moment of revelation, he remembers his days at Congowes and he realizes that obedience is not his destiny. Since he was a child, he was a rebel. For example,

when Stephen was riding a bicycle in the opposite way.

He rejects the life of priesthood and decides to go to the university against his mother will.

His mother is afraid that the intellectual life will make him rebel against religion. Stephen sees a group of Christian Brothers and their strict walking as Catholicism and their dull faces as Ireland. He realizes once again that he is not ready to live this world. And many other epiphanies will help him realize that his destiny is different.

The last chapter begins and ends with a success for Stephen and failure for his father and his family. Stephen goes to university, but he decides not to stop his studies and leaves Ireland. He rejects and passes all the obstacles, his family, religion and his country; which is a big success for Stephen.

Loyce gave the readers the impression that Stephen is not sure if he succeeds or not, he

ends like Daedalus or Icarus because of Stephen's identity crisis. For example, when Stephen is with his class mates in the sea, they call him with the Greek name. This reminds him of art, his destiny. After a moment of revelation, he hears some one calling "I'm drowned" and he remembers Icarus who did not take the advice of his father and drowned. In the university, he also sees a group of birds passing and he wonders if it is a sign of good or evil. His faith is related to the legend of Daedalus, this destiny is his name and his name is his destiny. The name has always put Stephen between the father and the son.

Stephen is like Daedalus who decided to fly and he had this question of failure or success. Daedalus used his artistic creativity to escape, but he was not sure if he would succeed or not, but he was courageous enough to fly with his own creative wings. Stephen also decides to escape with his art and leave Ireland, but he is not completely sure to find his own way in exile.

The legend of Daedalus evokes as we have seen the idea of father/son relationship. So the next

factor that influences Stephen is his father.

## 1.2 The father

One of the most important discoveries for Stephen is to know his father. "he must measure his father in order to measure himself"<sup>35</sup>

The father Simon Dedalus reflects Ireland. He represents the two sides of Ireland. He is a lover of politics and a good fellow and at the same time irresponsible. Stephen feels stranger

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<sup>35</sup> Harry Levin. p9.

from both sides of his father. The story the father tells at the beginning to his son Stephen

“Once upon a time and very good time it was there a moccoow coming along the road met a nicens little boy named tukoo. . .”<sup>36</sup>. The moccoow is a symbol of Ireland, it refers to a traditional Irish tale of a white cow that takes children to an island kingdom to train them as heroes. Here, the father is another symbol of authority which controls Stephen. The father teaches his son how to be Irish. Through the story, the father tells Stephen that he has to follow the road, religion, family and Ireland.

During a trip to Cork, a city in the Southern West of Ireland, Stephen faces the fact that his father is a failure alcoholic who likes to flirt with women.

At school, when Stephen wins money as a prize because of his very good marks, he helps his family with this money, but as soon as the money is gone they go back to poverty.

Stephen has always seen that there is an obstacle between him and his father. And now Stephen is an outsider in his own family.

In *Ulysses*, another novel of Joyce, Stephen rejects his biological father and adopts a spiritual one because his father is a symbol of failure and self-betrayal. He rejects his alcoholic father who lost his job and left his family in a miserable situation. In addition, he wants to imprison Stephen by teaching him the rule of obeying without rebelling.

Stephen associates his mother with purity (Virgin Mary). She has a nice smell, a soft face and a beautiful voice, but she is also a narrow minded Catholic. When he leaves Catholicism, he leaves his mother. He even refuses to join his mother for Easter.

Consequently, Stephen starts to rebel against everything in his society to find the real Stephen. He struggles with himself to find Stephen.

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36<sup>36</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. p27.

*Stephen uses words to find himself in the universe "Stephen Dedalus. Class of elements. . . The world. The universe." 37*

*Stephen develops the love for words through the sense of hearing. Children are not supposed to speak, so he hears and tries to understand the meaning of words. Words which he did not understand, he said to himself many times till he memorizes them.*

*For example in the Christmas dinner, he does not understand the meaning of politics, so he learns it by heart till he grows up and understands its meaning. He also expresses himself through words because he does not speak with others. At the end, he realizes that he can use words and turn them to a beautiful art and he writes a poem: a Vissanelle.*

*From the beginning, he rebels against every thing; he is fan of the poet Lord Byron\* who was known for his free thinking and his intense emotional poetry. He also uses words to write essays and poetry for Emma, the girl he loves because he can not face her. He starts to discover the artist Stephen. After Father DeSan proposes the priesthood to Stephen, he goes to walk on the bridge. He remembers a poetic phrase "a day of dappled sea born clouds" and this reminds him of his love for words. He also sees the clouds moving from Ireland towards Europe. This moment of revelation, this epiphany, helps Stephen to realize that he can not be a priest of religion, but he will be a priest of art.*

*Stephen believes that through art every thing changes, even the ugly streets of Dublin turn to be beautiful. Joyce used words to reveal the inner emotions of Stephen. This is called in psychoanalysis "free association" or stream of consciousness. For example, when Stephen*

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37 *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. p27.

\*\* George Gordon Byron, commonly known as Lord Byron. He is a British poet, philosopher and a leading figure in Romanticism.

sees water, he remembers escape and associates himself to Daedalus, so the reader knows what happens in Stephen's mind.

Joyce showed the readers from the beginning of the novel that Stephen is an outsider. All the life of Stephen is a maze as Daedalus's life. Stephen is caught in a maze like all the Irish as his name is Daedalus: Daedalus was caught in a maze and life in Ireland is a maze for Stephen. The schools are a maze of corridors, Dublin is a maze of streets. The mind itself is a maze of its own ideas and reasoning. Life contains obstacles in every turn. The mind of Stephen is like the labyrinth of Daedalus with numberless passages. Stephen searches every where, but he can not find a way to go out. So, he decides to create his own wings to free himself. But, Stephen has to free himself also from another Irish institution which is Catholicism.

### 1.3 Religion

From the first chapter we can see the beginning of a rebellion especially against religion. Stephen is a child and he just says that he wants to marry a Protestant girl named Eileen when he grows up. His mother orders him to apologize because it is a great sin in Catholicism to marry a non-Catholic. Dante, a very strict Catholic tells Stephen you have to apologize, "O, if not, the eagles will come and pull out his eyes"<sup>38</sup>. From this, we see the atmosphere of the Roman Catholic life of the late nineteenth century.

At school, Stephen is revealed that a man of religion can be cruel. Father DeSan punishes Stephen when he breaks his glasses. He goes to the director and becomes the hero of his friends. Because of financial troubles instead of going to Congewes, Stephen goes to

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38<sup>38</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. p20.

*Belvedere College, a Jesuit school. Catholic children have to study in Jesuit schools.*

*Finally, he satisfies his sexual desires with prostitutes and after a while he feels guilty when Father Arnall in a sermon speaks of hell. He confesses and he decides to join the Jesuits,*

*but he changes his mind and his way when he sees the dull faces of religious men walking towards an opposite direction. As I have said before, he remembers a poetic phrase and the clouds moving towards Europe. So, Stephen realizes that his destiny is not the life of priesthood.*

*Stephen does not like obedience of the religious men, he hates orders. He likes rebellion from the beginning of his life. At the end, Stephen uses the Latin form of Lucifer's words "Non Serviam" which mean I will not serve as his motto. Stephen takes the identity of Lucifer and becomes the fallen angel who abandoned family, God and his country. Every time Stephen identifies himself to a person, that person is a rebel, as example: Napoleon, Parnell, Lucifer and Lord Byron and many others.*

*Religion controls everything in Ireland even the thoughts of people, so Stephen rejects it to find his identity. But to reach his aim, a last obstacle has to be overcome: politics.*

#### 1.4 Politics

*All the previous experiences help Stephen to search for his identity. Through the process of self-discovery Stephen rejects his family and his religion to find himself.*

*The young Stephen is a nationalist, Parnell is his hero and when he grows up he realizes that Catholic Priests destroyed Parnell. Ireland destroyed all her heroes.*

*The Christmas dinner of chapter one of the novel is a basic revelation in Stephen's life. After*

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*\* \* Lucifer is the fallen angel who refused to obey God and he was taken down to hell.*



the dinner and when Stephen grows up, he changes his beliefs from some one who loves his country to someone who sees it as a prison. He loses faith in all the institutions (church, family and Ireland).

As I have said in the Christmas dinner scene, Stephen does not understand anything. Stephen sits between Mr. Casey (pro-Parnell) and Dante (anti-Parnell). It is a symbol of loss of identity. He is between the two parts of Ireland because his country was divided between pro-Parnell and anti-Parnell. Stephen observes without saying a word because children do not have the right to speak. Parnell divided Ireland into two and also Stephen's family. As it is mentioned before the father of Stephen, Simon and his guest John Casey are supporters of Parnell and Dante opposes them. Stephen sees that his hero Parnell is attacked and the church also is attacked. Parnell and religion are the two things, he has been told to respect and love and live with.

Stephen's years at university make his way more clear. His class mates concentrated on politics, nationalism and Irish cultural independence. Stephen remains an outsider as usual. He lives in a world of art, words and poetry.

His friends see him strange and he sees himself superior to them because of his name and his silence. He is not part of Ireland as his class mates. One of his friends, Davin asks Stephen "I can not understand you. . . one time I hear you talk against English literature. . . what with your name and your ideas. . . Are you Irish at all?"<sup>29</sup>

Stephen feels superior because his name is related to the legend in which the bird (wings) permitted the artist to reveal himself: the artist is not common; because of his talent and his desire of universality. He is superior to the others, to the common. He is special as

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39<sup>29</sup> *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, p.204.

*Daedalus and his name makes him special.*

*Stephen rejects his country which destroys her citizens. His class mates of university want to fight for their land by political and cultural actions, but he decides to escape from all this.*

*Stephen shares with his friend, Davin his concerns towards Gaelic traditions, but his country does not deserve his concerns. Stephen says to his friend "Do you know what Ireland is?... Ireland is the old sow that eats her farrow"<sup>40</sup> Ireland betrayed all her heroes from Wolfe Tone to Parnell. Stephen does not want to be eaten by his country.*

*Stephen wants his own identity and isolates himself. He wants to escape and walks away far*

*from Ireland. He tells his friend Davin "when the soul of a man is born in this country there are nets flung at it to hold it back from flight. You talk to me of nationality, language, religion. I shall try to fly by those nets"<sup>41</sup>*

*Joyce predicted that Ireland would destroy all his nationalist friends. Stephen/Joyce's friends of university: George Clancy (Davin) was killed by British troops while he was a mayor of Limerick. Francis Skeffington (McCann) was killed by the British during the Easter Rising of 1916. Vincent Cosgrave (Lynch) Joyce gave him the name of an evil mayor who hanged his son. In 1927 Lynch was found drown in London's Thames River.*

*So, Stephen is free from all Irish institutions which control him. He tries to find himself in his Family, religion and nationalism, but he fails. Stephen realizes that he can find this identity in art far away from Ireland and her internal troubles.*

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<sup>40</sup>*ibid.* p206.

<sup>41</sup>*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.* p206.

## 2. Stephen and his Way towards Exile

*Many things change from the beginning of the novel till the end. Birds at the beginning: the eagles symbolize fear and punishment and after they change to be a source of freedom and beauty. Birds are his only way of escape. Water at the beginning is a source of dirty and sexuality. At school, the sound of dirty water running down a drain was unpleasant for Stephen and after, water is a source of life and creativity. Through water, he will escape to meet his destiny and his identity. In chapter four, Stephen realizes that water is both a source of death and life. A source of life as the legend, Daedalus escaped through water and he succeeded in flying, crossing the water. A source of death as happened in the legend, when the son of Daedalus, Icarus who drowned in the sea when he flew through water. The repeated images of water symbolize Stephen's reborn because every time he sees water, he remembers art and escape. Water reminds him of his destiny.*

*The entire novel is a self-discovery. The first two chapters are Stephen's discovery of his own body and environment. The other chapters show Stephen discovering his artistic side and realizing that he must leave Ireland.*

*In chapter four, Stephen goes to the sea with his class mates and they call him with the Greek name Stephencumencus. This reminds him of the Greek myth, Daedalus who flew with his own creation. This strange call leads Stephen to exile. He triumphantly rejects Ireland and the dull life of priesthood for the priesthood of art. This is the central epiphany of the novel and now water is his rebirth that rescues him "the grave of boyhood"<sup>42</sup>. In the same moment of revelation, Stephen hears a boy crying "I'm drowned" and this reminds him of Icarus, the son*

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<sup>42</sup> Harry Levin. p45.

of Daedalus who escaped and did not take the advice of his father and he drowned. Stephen realizes that he may drown like Icarus when he escapes from Ireland.

After this, he also sees a girl wading on the beach. She has a strange appearance of a beautiful sea-bird. This reminds him again of Daedalus and escape. Stephen also has to take the risk and fly. He has to cross water with his wings (art) towards exile. This also is a great moment of revelation from self-doubt to self-discovery.

In chapter five, Stephen remembers Thoth the Egyptian God of writers who has the head of a bird and this also reminds him of the legend and escape.

The reader participates in Stephen's self-discovery. We see the world of Stephen through his eyes. Stephen passes through many experiences to find the real Stephen. We have seen the fearful and the bold, the insecure and the proud, the romantic and the realist, he is shy and sleeps with prostitutes.

Stephen searches for an inner, individual, and social liberty and he uses art to find them. Stephen tries to isolate himself in a private world far from the problems of the outside world.

The title A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man reflects the idea of self-research and discovery. Joyce wanted to say through the title that this artist of the novel is not completely formed. Joyce names his novel a portrait not the portrait because the novel represents one version of the artist, one side of Stephen. The novel is just the beginning of a new Irish identity.

*Stephen Dedalus discovered himself as we have seen through sexuality, religion, family and nationalism. Finally, he realizes that he is an artist and he can not be some one else. Epiphanies are the guiding line of Stephen's development.*

*As it has been mentioned before, the scene of the bridge changes Stephen's mind about priesthood. The second epiphany, when Stephen is on the beach and when his friends call him with the Greek name and when he sees a girl like a bird, remind him of escape and art.*

*Stephen realizes that he is an artist when he goes home and he writes a whole successful poem: a Villanelle. At university, when Stephen goes to the library, he sees birds passing and he understands once more that he has to escape using words. However, the birds make unpleasant cries, so he wonders if escape augurs good or evil.*

*The end of the novel is just the beginning of another story. It is the real beginning of self-discovery through art. Stephen begins his journey towards the search for an Irish identity.*

## Conclusion

*As we have seen through the dissertation, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man explores what it means by self-discovery. Through the famous technique of Joyce, the stream of consciousness, we have seen the development of Stephen's mind and thoughts. James Joyce used the first person narrator to help his readers enter the private world of Stephen and the third person narrator to reflect the Irish society and how the surrounding people see Stephen. Joyce's experimentation with the stream of consciousness captured the process and rhythms by which Stephen thinks. We have followed the development of Stephen and seen how he refuses to accept family commitment, religious devotion and political involvement. At the end, Stephen escapes Ireland because he cannot find himself in the Irish society, a society which can not free itself from British invasion.*

*As soon as Stephen understands the meaning of the name Daedalus, he decides to use his creativity to find his way out from the maze which is Ireland. Stephen wants to be the father Daedalus in the Greek myth and not his son Icarus who drowned in the sea. Stephen realizes that that name is the key of his identity and not a loss of identity. Water and birds are very important symbols for Stephen. He decides to use his own wings which are his creativity in writing and escape through water towards Europe. Stephen wants to open the door for freedom. Exile is the source of rebirth for the Irish identity. Stephen has doubts about whether he is going to fail or succeed, but he decides to take the risk.*

*As Stephen Joyce was imprisoned in Ireland by religious pressures and political troubles, so he wanted to make from the artistic and intellectual life his new world. Joyce used "silence, exile and cunning" as weapons to escape Ireland. Silence towards nationalist and religious matters. Exile to free himself from prison which was Ireland. He also*

*used his skills in writing in order to find a new way for his identity.*

*Joyce decided to leave Ireland and go to exile to begin his real mission in life. Joyce spent most of his life in exile, but he could not forget his country because she was the one who created his soul. So, Joyce's writings reflect the Irish essence as we have seen in the novel. Joyce escaped his family, religion and politics. He broke free from his last chain which was Ireland to begin a new way towards isolation.*

*Joyce's aim was to draw an identity for himself and for his nation. He wanted to give a new voice for Ireland and his works are the mirror of Ireland.*

*The issue of identity is very important because we identify characters and nations through a distinctive identity. We do not exist if we do not have an identity. The novel is a hope for an Irish identity. At the end of the novel Stephen achieves the consciousness of his soul in loneliness, but he can not be out of nothing, he is the result of his race. Stephen is not the embryo of a simple artist, but of an influential artist who is going to show the entire world the truth of Ireland. But Joyce sold his soul to the devil as religious people said when he abandoned Catholicism for a universal purpose.*

*Joyce was courageous enough to be alone and create his own world and portray a new identity for the Irish. The history of Joyce's country never left Joyce even in his moments of high passion in exile. He had always remembered the smell and the image of Ireland.*

*The novel is a picture of Joyce's spiritual self, the hidden face of an Irish individual and of an artist who was going to represent the voice of his nation.*

*The sense of loss of identity is very strong not only in Ireland, but within the colonized and post-colonized nations. Not only the Irish suffered from the issue of identity, but there are many countries like them. In all the countries where alien people invaded their lands, their people struggled to find their true identity.*



*In Algeria for example, we have a big problem of identity. Our dialect is a mixture of*

*Arabic, Amazigh and French.*

*Every individual in Algeria identifies himself in his own vision. There are Algerians who are still related to France and others to Arab or Amazigh culture. Till nowadays, the majority of Algerians do not master the Arabic language unlike the French language. We do not have a clear identity and this made our nation lose her identity. Our writers are trying to present the Algerian identity in many ways and faces. For example, K. Yacine in his novel Nedjma, tries to make us understand the Algerian identity through the woman Nedjma who represents the woman and at the same time, the country and the conflicts between the colonized and the colonies. As Joyce and Faulkner, he made great use of the stream of consciousness. Also, in Med Dib's novels, the main character (the Algerian) searches his identity through labyrinthic corridors too, like Joyce in Dublin and Daedalus in his prison-creation. Through works of art, writers tried to give their nations a new spirit of identity according to his vision.*

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