Theme of Love in O’ Henry’s Short Stories in Reference to *A Service of Love & The Gift of Magi*

Krupaba Zala  
Research Scholar,  
C. U. Shah University, Wadhwan, Surendranagar, Gujarat.

Dr. R. N. Joshi  
Research Guide,  
Dean of Arts & Humanity, C. U. Shah University, Wadhwan, Surendranagar, Gujarat.

Received Oct. 21, 2017  
Accepted Nov. 25, 2017

**ABSTRACT**  
Fiction plays an important role in every one’s life, it inspires us to reason. Everyone’s have their life story and. People always are interested to know about other’s story and life, that’s why short stories are very famous and like by all literature lovers. One of the best literature is short story which is less than 10,000 words to give singular, setting, place, and focus on one actor in a time. One of the best short stories which is like most by readers is O. Henry’s short story. This study is carried out to find theme of Love, its meaning and moral of the stories. By understanding and knowing theme of love and O. Henry’s short story readers, can get more interest and understanding on the short stories. There are many kinds of messages found in O. Henry’s short stories. There are morals, reality of life, social problems, Love, Sacrifice, poverty etc. In the words of Stephen Leacock’ O. Henry is deserved to be called “One of the greatest masters of modern literature”. We find many romantic stories by O. Henry but the best for me is The Gift of Magi and A Service of Love. These stories are about Love, Sacrifice of true lovers narrated by O. Henry.

**Key Words:** Love, Short Story, Sacrifice, Message on moral, Desire.

**INTRODUCTION:**

William Sydney Porter, born in 1862 at Greensboro. Wrote under the pen name O. Henry. His first book was published in 1904. He began writing while serving a prison sentence for embezzlement on his release, he found himself as a serious writer. He has written more than 250 short stories. Which have been read and cherished all over the world, His stories are full of surprise, twist, ending, reality of life, and conveys messages to the society.

What is a short stories?

A short story is a piece of writing fiction that can be read and listened in one sitting only. Talented from earlier oral story telling traditions in the 17th century. Simply we can say that a fictional tale of a length that is too short to publish in single volume. Short Stories have 5 or 6 pages, as a result they can read in single sitting. Usually short story's aim of single event with only one or two characters.

**Love Theme:**

Love is variety of different feelings that related to affection. It refers to an emotion or attraction towards something or someone. Henry's short stories having Love theme which we find in many short stories. But here we explore the two short stories...

(i) *A Service of Love*

(ii) *The Gift of Magi*

To me, these two short stories are O. Henry's more famous stories. The Gift of Magi and A Service of Love. In both the themes are Love and Sacrifice.

**Theme of Love in “A Service of Love” :-**

In this story, two characters Joe and Delia Love each other very much. Because of this, they each willing to do something that they do not really into their respective types of art. But they Sacrifice there are for each other. In this story, we find two types of Love, On love is Joe and Delia’s Love for each other and the second love is love for each other's are joe loves his art of painting where as Delia loves music. In this, they meet first at studio and fall in love and get married. The hole story is about a married couple wing jobs without telling to each other. The themes are love and sacrifice. The moral is when “One loves one's art, No, Service seems two hard.”

They want to get ahead in their areas of art. But they love each other more. Each of them sacrifice his / her artistic ambitious for more important goal of pleasing the person they love. They can justify that love and art work with one soul. That soul is joy of respecting the art of painting or music. They try to
make their love and marriage, more mature than any art, has made before. They are like Romeo and Juliet who have not made Shakespeare upset, but alive.

Without telling each other Joe and Delia working from last few weeks in same laundry, at last when Delia get hurt by burning hand Joe. Come to know that Delia is not going to tuition of music and Delia also come to know that not any single painting, Joe has sold. They both are Working / Servicing in same laundry without telling each other, because Joe wanted Delia to liars more music and success in music. Where Delia also wanted to see Joe as a great Painters and he study further.

"When once loves one's Art no service seems too hard" its definition is the purposeful repetition of words in given literary piece that usually expresses a motif or theme important to the story. By that we can understand that for Joe and Delia their service is not too hard as they love each other and doing for their love. This premise sentence tells us a deep feeling of love of Joe and Delia. It means when we love someone or something than everything is easy to do for that.

**Theme of Love in “The Gift of Magi”:**

The most famous theme in “The Gift of Magi” is Love. Jim and Della are willing to part with their most prized possessions to make each other happy demonstrating that a wealth of love makes ip for poverty.

“Gift of The Magi “ is a story about a young, poor couple, who love each other very much, is the most important thing in their lives. Such is this love for each other lead to sacrifice. Della has her long and beautiful hair and Jim has his Late Grandfather's witch, without chain. They both wants to give Christmas gift to each other hope impossible to complete for both. But they both sacrifice for each other. Jim bring nice, beautiful comb set for Della on Christmas and Della bring Golden chain for Jim's watch. Tragedy or twist is that Jim had sold his watch so he can't take chain in use in other side Della also bought chain from money which she got by dwelling her beautiful hair in parlor.

Theme of Love in this short story has a deep meaning. One way to show the theme is that love. Last a lifetime. All people at some time have about marriage or love. We fond as the story progress as we find the charm of both character, to buy a Gift for each other it doesn’t mean for them only love and give Gift to each other anyhow they want, So that’s why they not think once about their valuable thing which they have. Both sacrifice each other's valuable thing. Jim bring comb set as he like Della's long, shining and beautiful hair. Della bought chain as she know that Jim like that watch much but he don’t have chain to wear that watch. So for each other’s like. They sacrifice their valuable thing. At that time they want to give Gift on Christmas.

The significance of the Magi is summed up in the last paragraph as the Della and Jim to the Magi who created the art of giving, value of Gift Sacrifice.

**Conclusion :-**

To conclude, we can to say that both stories are full of love, sacrifice an reality of life is always we find in O Henry's short stories. The stories throughout holds its reader's attention and creates a climax or twist till the end throughout the story, O. Henry has spread more his artistry. Love and sacrifice of two young and beautiful couple. Jim and Della in “The Gift of Magi” and Joe and Delia in “A Service of Love” in many love stories we find in Henry's short stories collection. This two I thoughts similar two each one and full of love and sacrifice.

**Reference :-**