

explanation of fine arts. The main point of James is that "fiction should be based on freedom of execution, no recipes, mathematical formulas".

- Other people do not accept the notion of fiction as fine art. For example protestants consider art not to be connected to morality. Fiction should be didactic and amusing. If fiction is artistic it should not be amusing. The artistic element in fiction obstructs the rule of having happy endings. Fiction should have virtuous and aspiring characters.
- 3rd group of people think that fiction should have movement and dialogue not description.
- If fiction contains artistic element it ruins the pleasure.
- James makes a comparison between a novelist and a maddlesome doctor.
- The artistic elements are not widely accepted by people.
- James disagreed that the art of fiction should be defined strictly and he believed in the freedom of execution of the writer.
- James said that anyone can differentiate between a bad and good novel. Good novels cause affections, bad novels are disregarded by the readers.
- James says that the only object that the novelist should adhere to is that the novel should be interesting. But he does not say why?
- Definition of novel by James: The novel is a direct and personal impression of life (and that is something that constitutes its value). In order to write the novelist should have the freedom of execution. Different novelists choose different methods of execution and the subject depends on the novelist. Some novelists cannot execute successfully without freedom of execution.
- The peak of James's criticism towards Besant is that there is no recipe how fiction should be written. Besant gave very strict rules of fiction by the analogy of the novelist and a painter. Besant: The novel is hid down with exactness and precision as the laws of geometry and proportion. James disagreed with this identification and especially with the exactness and precision. He is strongly against exactness and precision.

We must remember that James does not criticize Besant 100% and only some rules are criticized whereas other are approved.

Besant's 9 rules

1. Experience is very important when a novelist wants to write something and the novelist must write from his own experience
2. Characters need to be real as ones can be met in real life
3. Class restriction rule: Besant says that a novelist from a lower-middle-class should stick to his own class i.e. not to write about characters of other classes
4. Connected to the 1st: If the novelist comes from the countryside he should stick to his own surroundings and should not dare to write about for example the military service (very restrictive)
5. Novelists should take notes and those should be recorded in a common book and the novel should be based on these notes
6. The characters need to be clear in outline, need to be evoked clearly and the illustrations should not be based on their speech; through description is even worse

Henry James