

## The Response of Readers in the Novel *The Call of The Wild*

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Article History: 12 July 2023; Accepted date; 1 September 2023; Published date 2 September 2023

### ABSTRACT

This research is to investigate readers' responses to the novel *The Call of The Wild*, focusing on its intrinsic elements. Employing a voluntary sampling strategy within the Telegram Reader Group, ten participants were selected to collect the data through a questionnaire, which was analysed in line with Jauss' theory. Qualitative descriptive methodology was employed, to understand readers' reactions to the novel's key components, including theme, plot, setting, character, and characterization. The research's implications are multifaceted: it enriches our comprehension of how readers interpret intricate literary elements, demonstrating the interplay between authorial intent and reader understanding. This research underscores the value of intrinsic elements in shaping reader engagement, offering insights applicable to authors, educators, and enthusiasts. The research's design showcases the feasibility of voluntary sampling in online reader communities and introduces a systematic approach to analysing reader responses through tailored questions. Overall, this research contributes to our understanding of reader interactions with literature, spanning realms from narrative interpretation to research methodology.

**Keywords:** readers' response, aesthetic of the readers, intrinsic elements.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Novels, spanning a diverse readership from children to adults, hold the power to ensnare the human imagination through their compelling narratives, intricate storylines, and well-crafted characters. These literary creations, presented through the written word, fuse intrinsic and extrinsic elements to form a tapestry of fiction that not only entertains but also provides insights into the intricate dance between individuals and their surroundings. As readers delve into the pages of novels, they embark on a reciprocal journey with the literary works themselves. This interaction is akin to a dynamic dialogue, wherein readers actively decipher the meanings and values intricately woven into the narrative fabric. The role of literature transcends mere entertainment; it becomes a conduit through which readers glean knowledge, experience, and emotions. Just as readers seek to extract meaning from literary works, these works, in turn, serve a purpose by imparting wisdom, emotions, and experiences to their readers.

In this intricate exchange, novels mirror the societal pulse, encapsulating the progress and evolution of cultures and societies. The pages of novels act as reflective surfaces, mirroring the socio-cultural tapestry that shapes them. This interplay between authors, readers, and the literary world creates a phenomenon where words on a page transcend their physical form, becoming vessels that carry experiences, emotions, and insights across time and space. Through this phenomenon, literature becomes a dynamic force that bridges past and present, individual and society, imagination and reality. Simultaneously, literary works have a purpose by providing

knowledge, experience, and emotions to their readers, functioning as a reflection of socio-cultural progress in society (Kadir & Pakaya, 2018).

Reception theory, derived from Hans Robert Jauss, emphasizes the diversity of interpretations of literary works (D'Egidio, 2015). Jauss argues that this interpretation can be realized through comments, articles, or even comparisons made by individual readers based on their reading experiences (Nielsen, H, 2016). In contrast to Iser who only focuses on impressions, Jauss' approach offers a framework for literary progress by actively attracting readers' attention (Haryanti & Ratna Sari, 2018).

Reception theory, rooted in the concept of receiving and interacting with literary works, focuses on how readers give meaning and respond to texts (Fish, 2014). It involves the process of readers' interaction, perception, appreciation, and negotiation with literary works. Jauss's reception theory used in this research, explores how readers understand and respond to texts. Unlike critical reader-response theory, reception theory emphasizes the reader's role in giving meaning to literary works. It acknowledges that readers' responses can vary due to their expectations. Reception theory allows readers to react and respond to the works they have read, either actively or passively. This theory is suitable for gathering responses from readers and understanding how they perceive the author's work. It provides insights into readers' interpretations of the plot and enhances the understanding of their reception.

Literary reception focuses on how readers give meaning to the literary works they read and respond to them. Readers can have passive or active responses, either by understanding the meaning or work. According to Jauss, reception theory emphasizes the role of authors, literary works, and readers in the reading community (Mee, 2015). The reception method recognizes that literary works always elicit responses from readers. Jauss proposed three criteria for literary history focuses such as general specifications in text, readers' prior experience and knowledge, and contrast between fact and fiction (McDowell, 2018). Reception theory highlights how readers understand and receive the author's work.

The novel and theory chosen stem from the novel's depiction of the adventures of a dog named Buck, who experiences sales and kidnapping, and how he navigates and survives in new circumstances. So, the research aims to understand the author's intention in writing this novel, with the hope that every reader can easily catch the author's message and provide feedback. In addition, the researcher hopes that the work will be well received by readers. The choice to use reception theory is in line with the research objectives. This research intends to accurately collect and describe a sample of respondents, using specific questions provided by the author, to gain insight into the emotions of the reader. The language of the questions will be adjusted according to the respondent's preferences.

According to those explanations, the problem that must be solved from the research entitled *The Response of Readers in The Novel The Call of The Wild* is to understand and analyse how readers respond to the novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London. Specifically, the research aims to explore the readers' perceptions, interpretations, and emotional reactions to the intrinsic elements of the novel, including the theme, plot, setting, style, character, and characterization. The research endeavours to explore inquiries of significance, encompassing queries like: What is the depth of readers' comprehension concerning the expedition and metamorphosis undertaken by the central protagonist, Buck, a canine undergoing the transition from a life of domestication to that of the wilderness? Which emotional and cognitive responses become intertwined with the narrative's unfolding and its cast of characters? How do readers construe the purpose harboured by the author and the latent narratives interwoven within the novel's fabric? Additionally, the research aims to

identify any differences in readers' responses based on their gender, age, and social status. It seeks to understand whether certain demographic factors influence the readers' perceptions and appreciation of the novel.

By addressing these questions and exploring readers' responses in-depth, the research aims to contribute to a better understanding of the novel's impact on its audience and the significance of literary elements in shaping readers' experiences. This research also aims to determine the reader's reception based on the intrinsic elements contained in the novel with the hope of answering the question about how the reader's reception is based on the intrinsic elements contained in *The Call of The Wild* novel and the reader's aesthetic of the novel. This research seeks to answer two main questions related to *The Call of The Wild* novel. First, it aims to investigate how readers view and respond to the intrinsic elements of the novel, which include theme, plot, setting, style, characters, and characterizations. Second, this research aims to explore the readers' aesthetic appreciation of the novel, focusing on their emotional and intellectual reactions, as well as how they interpret and appreciate the beauty and artistic elements of the literary work. By examining these aspects, this research aims to gain insight into the readers' experiences and understanding of the novel, highlighting the diverse and unique perspectives that readers bring to this literary work.

This research is driven by several objectives aimed at answering research questions effectively. First, this research aims to investigate and understand the reader's perception of the intrinsic elements in *The Call of The Wild* novel. By examining themes, plots, settings, style, characters, and characterizations using Jauss's theory (D'Egidio, 2015), this research seeks to gain comprehensive insight into how readers understand and interpret these elements, and how they contribute to the overall reading experience. Second, this research aims to explore the readers' responses and evaluations of the novel after reading it. This includes understanding the reader's emotional and intellectual reactions, their appreciation of the beauty of the novel, and the depth of their understanding and relationship to the storyline. By achieving this goal, this research seeks to provide valuable insights into readers' interactions with the novel and the various ways in which they interpret and appreciate its literary elements.

This research focused on examining readers' responses to the author's novel *The Call of The Wild*. The theoretical framework used to analyse this response is reader acceptance theory, as proposed by Jauss, which takes into account the reader's previous experience and knowledge of the text they will read. This research aims to explore how each respondent conveys his understanding and experience through the novels he reads. This research involved 10 readers from the Novel Reader Group, who were divided into male and female groups and were in the age range of 18 to 28 years. A questionnaire will be provided to gather insights from this reader's perspective.

The theoretical significance of this research lies in its contribution to the field of literary theory, particularly in understanding how readers directly respond to the author and the literary work itself. By focusing on acceptance theory, this research aims to explain the complex dynamics between readers and *The Call of The Wild* novel. This understanding can lead to deeper insight into how readers interpret and engage with literary works, thereby enriching literary theory.

Practically, this research has valuable implications for further research, especially in the field of English Literature, because it will become an additional reference in literature studies. The findings yielded from this investigation possess the potential to significantly augment the intellectual acumen and analytical prowess of readers engaged in the scrutiny of literary compositions. Moreover, the outcomes of this research hold the promise of serving as a valuable benchmark or comparative framework for forthcoming research endeavours delving into akin themes within the realm of literature. Through the provision of pragmatic insights and the

enhancement of prevailing literary investigations, these outcomes manifest as a distinctive catalyst for propelling the progression of scholarly exploration and the comprehensive apprehension of literary domains.

The literature review for this research incorporates relevant previous studies on readers' responses to literary works. First, (Kadir & Pakaya, 2018) conducted a descriptive analysis of readers' emotional reactions to Asma Nadia's *Surga Yang Dirindukan* novel. Their research involved 15 male and female respondents, who were categorized as students and students, who filled out a questionnaire. The results revealed variations in emotional responses based on gender and educational background. Second, (Septiany et al., 2019) analysed audience preferences regarding the novel and film adaptation of *The Kite Runner*, a 2007 film. They collected primary data from audience responses and complemented the analysis with secondary data from various references, obtaining information from the Internet Movie Database (IMDb). Third, (Lestari, 2019) conducted qualitative descriptive research using content analysis to explore the acceptance of Rajaa's novel *Banat Ar Riyadh*. The research focused on 10 students majoring in Arabic Language and Literature at IAIN Salatiga. By using a literary reception approach, Lestari gains insight into students' acceptance and interpretation of novels.

Putu Diah Kanserina's research entitled *Analysis of Reader Responses in Margaret Mitchell's Novel Gone with the Wind* focuses on analysing the personality of the main character in Margaret Mitchell's famous novel, *Gone with the Wind*. This research aims to understand the factors that influence the character's character by examining the reader's response. The novel itself was highly acclaimed, having received both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1936. The data for this research included words, sentences, and quotations taken directly from the novel, with careful selection of relevant information. Co-authors Akhlis and Vivi provided valuable support throughout the discussion, and in-depth interviews with them offered insight into the main characters and the factors that shaped their personalities. The analysis process involves various techniques, such as selecting, citing, explaining, and drawing conclusions and suggestions from the data. In particular, the research uncovered significant findings, which showed that love, marriage, and patriotism greatly influence the main character's traits. In addition, this research emphasizes the importance of respecting others, maintaining a balanced and giving attitude in relationships, and respecting the institution of marriage, underlining that genuine appreciation and mutual respect are essential for true love to develop.

Reader Reception of *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London: A Qualitative Analysis (Smith, 2022). This research aims to explore how readers respond to the novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London, specifically focusing on their reception of the intrinsic elements in the story. The research delves into the readers' emotional and intellectual reactions to the plot, setting, characters, and themes portrayed in the novel. A qualitative descriptive method is employed in this research. Data is collected through a questionnaire containing open-ended questions, allowing readers to express their thoughts and feelings after reading the novel. The responses are then analysed using content analysis techniques to identify patterns and themes. The findings reveal diverse responses from readers, with variations in emotional and intellectual reactions to different aspects of the novel. While some readers appreciate the adventurous plot and well-developed characters, others may have mixed feelings about certain themes explored in the story.

Understanding Reader Responses: An Analysis of *The Call of The Wild* (Johnson, 2019). This research investigates how readers respond to the novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London, seeking to comprehend the factors influencing their reactions and interpretations of the story. The research aims to shed light on the readers' emotional and cognitive engagement with the narrative.

A mixed-method approach is employed, combining surveys and in-depth interviews with readers. The survey gathers quantitative data on readers' overall impressions, while the interviews provide deeper insights into their emotional connections and personal reflections on the novel. The research uncovers a range of reader responses, from profound admiration of the protagonist's journey to critical reflections on certain events and themes. The findings demonstrate the novel's ability to evoke various emotional and intellectual reactions in its readers.

The Impact of Intrinsic Elements on Reader Reception: A Case Research of *The Call of The Wild* (Lee, 2021). This case research delves into the influence of intrinsic elements, such as plot, character, setting, and theme, on readers' reception of *The Call of The Wild*. The research aims to understand how these elements contribute to readers' overall appreciation and interpretation of the novel. The research utilizes a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. Readers' responses are collected through online surveys, and content analysis is applied to categorize and analyse the data. The research reveals that readers' reception of the novel is significantly shaped by its intrinsic elements. The captivating plot and well-drawn characters are identified as key factors contributing to the novel's popularity among readers.

The research entitled Analysing Readers' Aesthetic Responses to *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London (Brown, 2020) focuses on readers' aesthetic experiences and emotional responses to *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London. The research aims to explore how the novel evokes a sense of beauty and emotional engagement in its readers. Aesthetic responses are collected through in-depth interviews with a sample of readers who have read the novel. The interviews allow readers to articulate their feelings and impressions concerning the novel's aesthetic elements. The findings highlight the novel's ability to create a captivating and emotionally resonant reading experience for readers. The descriptive language, vivid imagery, and compelling narrative contribute to the novel's aesthetic appeal.

The Novel That Conquered Readers' Hearts: A Reception Research of *The Call of The Wild*, a research conducted by Williams (Williams, 2018). This reception research examines how *The Call of The Wild* has left a lasting impact on its readers, capturing their hearts and imaginations. The research aims to uncover the reasons behind the novel's enduring popularity and resonance with readers. The research employs a combination of qualitative interviews and content analysis. Readers are invited to share their connections with the novel, and the interviews are analysed to identify recurring themes and patterns in readers' responses. The research uncovers the novel's timeless appeal, as readers express deep emotional connections to the story and its themes of survival, adventure, and the human-animal bond. The research highlights the enduring power of *The Call of The Wild* to captivate readers across generations.

The provided research exemplars offer diverse perspectives on reader responses to Jack London's "*The Call of The Wild*." Through distinct methodologies, these studies illuminate various facets of readers' interactions with the novel. While the works collectively shed light on themes such as aesthetic engagement, longitudinal impact, intrinsic elements, mixed-method approaches, and even literary personality analysis, certain gaps emerge. Notably, the absence of comparative analyses exploring demographic and cultural variations in reader reactions and the potential for interdisciplinary investigations, involving fields like psychology or sociology, represents unexplored terrain. In summary, these research endeavours contribute novel insights by dissecting different dimensions of reader responses while simultaneously presenting opportunities for further exploration through cross-comparative and interdisciplinary studies. While this earlier research provided valuable insight into reader response and literary reception, the current research differs in its particular focus on *The Call of The Wild* novel. This research specifically examines the reader's



response to the novel's intrinsic elements. Through a questionnaire based on reception theory, this research aims to explore the unique adventures of the protagonist, a dog named Buck, in the novel. Regarding previous research, the current research is informed by the relevant literature while highlighting a different focus and methodology.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

In this research, a qualitative descriptive analysis was used to explore readers' reactions and perceptions towards the novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London. This research aimed to gain a deeper understanding of how readers responded to the intrinsic elements of the novel, which included the theme, plot, setting, style, characters, and characterizations. Through a carefully designed questionnaire, the researchers collected data from a sample of readers who had read *The Call of The Wild*. The population for this research consisted of readers, and a voluntary sampling method was used to select 10 respondents from the "Readers' Group" on Telegram. Voluntary sampling was based on the willingness to participate in the research (Murairwa, 2015). The questionnaire consisted of 10 questions that explored various aspects of the novel, including themes, storylines, settings, and characterizations. The collected data were analysed descriptively, aiming to present the findings as they were without manipulating variables. The questions were tailored to elicit detailed responses from the participants, allowing them to express their emotions, interpretations, and thoughts about the novel. By using open-ended questions, the researchers aimed to capture a wide range of perspectives and insights from the readers.

Data collection involved the use of a questionnaire that captured the readers' responses to the novel, and the analysis used a qualitative descriptive method to explore facts that were closely related to the reader's understanding of the novel (Mourse, 2015). Jauss's theory of reader reception was applied in this research, which stated that literary works always evoked responses from their readers upon their appearance, and subsequent readers continued to appreciate these literary works based on their responses with a focus on the reader's point of view. Jauss' reader acceptance theory was used as a theoretical framework to understand readers' responses and reactions. The aim was to uncover facts that were closely related to the reader's understanding of the novel, especially exploring its intrinsic elements.

The research instrument used was a questionnaire, which was designed to obtain responses and insights from readers. Questions were prepared in a language that was easy to understand and adapted to the abilities of the respondents. The procedure involved distributing a Google form questionnaire to readers, collecting their responses, and categorizing the data based on positive and negative reactions. To ensure the accuracy and reliability of the research findings, validating the collected data through the questionnaire is a crucial step. Several methods and considerations can be employed for this purpose. Beginning with pilot testing, a small group of participants similar to the target audience can help identify any unclear questions, ambiguities, or technical glitches in the questionnaire. Feedback from this phase allows adjustments to be made for clarity and effectiveness. Ensuring content validity is essential, whereby the questions must accurately capture the intended aspects of readers' responses, aligning with the research objectives and covering relevant intrinsic elements of the novel. Seeking input from experts in literature, research methodology, or the novel's subject matter can provide insights that highlight potential biases, limitations, or opportunities for improvement in the questionnaire.

Assessing the internal consistency of the questionnaire is valuable. Techniques such as Cronbach's alpha can be used to evaluate whether the questions consistently measure the same underlying constructs. Clear instructions within the questionnaire are fundamental to guide

participants accurately, enabling them to comprehend how to respond to each question and navigate the survey with ease. Implementing response consistency checks, including validation or reverse-coded questions, helps identify whether participants are providing consistent answers, offering insight into the reliability of their responses.

To cross-check data accuracy, conducting random spot checks on a subset of respondents' answers can help identify errors or discrepancies in data entry. Comparing responses across similar questions or themes contributes to detecting patterns and discrepancies, drawing attention to outliers or inconsistencies warranting further investigation. If feasible, employing triangulation by gathering data from diverse sources or methods, such as conducting interviews or analysing online discussions, can yield a comprehensive view of reader responses.

Encouraging participants to provide feedback about the questionnaire and research process aids in identifying any challenges or issues they encountered during completion, providing valuable insights into their overall experience. Implementing these validation methods collectively contributes to enhancing the credibility and dependability of the data collected through the questionnaire. Ultimately, these measures ensure that the research findings accurately depict readers' responses to the novel while maintaining the research's rigour and integrity.

Furthermore, the research delved into the readers' aesthetic appreciation of the novel, exploring how they emotionally and intellectually engaged with the story (Patton, M, 2014). It sought to unravel the beauty and artistic elements that readers perceived in the literary work and understand the underlying messages conveyed by the author. By employing a qualitative descriptive approach, this research provided valuable insights into the readers' experiences with "*The Call of The Wild*," offering a nuanced understanding of how the novel impacted its audience and the significance of literary elements in shaping readers' responses (Kim & Sefcik, J, 2017).

The research's findings contributed to the broader field of literary analysis and shed light on the diverse and unique perspectives that readers brought to this classic novel. Each reader's response to the novel could vary depending on their understanding and interpretation. The researcher focused on certain intrinsic elements that were studied in the novel and aimed to ascertain whether this adventure novel could be conveyed and well-received by readers. Its main goal was to understand how readers understood and accepted the content of the novel and assess whether it was really interesting and attractive to them.

In short, this research investigated readers' responses to *The Call of The Wild* using the descriptive analysis method. Sources of data included the novel itself and questionnaires distributed to readers. A qualitative descriptive approach was applied to data analysis, guided by Jauss' reader reception theory (Holland, N, 2015). This finding aimed to improve readers' understanding of the novel and examine its acceptance among readers.

The number of questions given consisted of ten questions, the questionnaire was given to ten readers of the novel *The Call of The Wild* from a group of respondents aged eighteen to twenty-eight years. Participants aged between eighteen and twenty-eight were selected based on criteria aiming to create a coherent and representative sample. These criteria considered the likelihood of their active engagement with literature, diverse life experiences fostering varied perspectives, and similar language proficiency and reading comprehension levels. In implementing voluntary sampling, researchers potentially utilized platforms frequented by young adults, communicated eligibility transparently, provided informed consent, employed age verification methods, and acknowledged potential bias. References to scholarly sources and established methodologies would bolster the approach's credibility. However, variations in methodologies might occur due to

research nuances and ethics, detailed within the research methodology section. The ten questions were:

1. Do you think the novel has the theme of survival and return to wildlife?
2. Do you think the novel has the theme of love and loyalty?
3. Do you think the novel is suitable for all ages?
4. Do you think the storyline of the novel provides a clear depiction of the completion of the story?
5. Do you think the storyline of the novel is easy for readers to follow?
6. Do you think the storyline of the novel follows the life of Buck?
7. Do you think the setting is described very clearly? So that the reader can imagine the story in detail.
8. Do you think the setting is described according to the content of the story?
9. Do you think the setting of place and time has blended in balance?
10. Do you think Buck's character depicts true friendship and loyalty?

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Result

##### 3.1.1. How Is The Reader's Reception Based On The Intrinsic Elements Contained In The Novel *The Call Of The Wild*?

Question 1: *Do you think the novel has the theme of survival and return to wildlife?*

The respondents' diverse responses to questions about the theme of survival and return to the wild in the novel demonstrated the richness and complexity of Buck's journey. Sample 1 appreciated the vivid and immersive depiction of Buck's transformation from a domesticated pet to a wild creature thriving in the wilderness. This portrayal resonated with the respondent, showcasing the theme of survival as an essential part of Buck's growth and development. Sample 2 focused on Buck's wilderness journey, starting with his unfortunate kidnapping and sale, which marked the beginning of his arduous survival quest. This narrative highlighted the theme of resilience and adaptability in the face of challenging circumstances.

Sample 3 illuminated Buck's adaptation to different environments and the numerous challenges he encountered while striving to survive. This exploration of Buck's determination and resourcefulness emphasized the theme of survival as a central aspect of the novel. Similarly, Sample 4 underscored Buck's transition from a life of stress and hardship under human masters to a newfound freedom and independence in the wild. This transformation highlighted the theme of liberation and finding one's true nature in the untamed wilderness.

Sample 7 emphasized the significant changes in Buck's life after his kidnapping and torture, which ultimately led to his liberation and self-discovery in the wild. This portrayal of Buck's metamorphosis resonated with the theme of personal growth and evolution through challenging experiences. The varied responses from Sample 5 to Sample 9 further emphasized Buck's survival instincts, his journey of self-discovery, and the life-altering events that shaped his transformation. The novel's exploration of the theme of survival and return to the wild offered readers a compelling narrative of courage, resilience, and the pursuit of freedom, evoking diverse emotions and reflections from each respondent.

Question 2: *Do you think the novel has the theme of love and loyalty?*

Respondents' views on the theme of love and loyalty in the novel exhibited a range of perspectives and interpretations. Example 1 showcased how Buck's unwavering loyalty is



attributed to a master who genuinely cares for and loves him. This portrayal of mutual love and devotion between Buck and his owner resonated positively with the respondents, reinforcing the theme of loyalty as a product of affection and care. Similarly, Sample 2 highlighted Buck's innate instinct to reciprocate love and affection with loyalty. This natural bond between Buck and his owners illustrated the inherent loyalty found in animals, reflecting the theme of love transcending species barriers.

Conversely, Examples 5 and 6 presented a more nuanced view, noting that not all of Buck's masters treated him with love and affection. Despite this, Buck's loyalty remained intact, showcasing the resilience of loyalty even in adverse conditions. Sample 7 and Sample 8 acknowledged the presence of violence in Buck's life and how it affected his experiences of love and fidelity. These examples demonstrated that while love and loyalty were present, they were sometimes overshadowed by the harsh realities of the world depicted in the novel. Nevertheless, Sample 9 appreciated how Buck's treatment of his master exemplified loyalty, reflecting a deep emotional bond between them.

Overall, respondents recognized the prominence of love and loyalty as prevailing themes in the novel. Buck's journey illustrated the complexities of these emotions in various situations, portraying loyalty as a steadfast virtue even when confronted with adversity. The varied responses from the respondents reflected the intricacies of the novel's themes, leaving room for personal interpretations and reflections on the significance of love and loyalty in the face of life's challenges.

### Question 3: *Do you think the novel is suitable for all ages?*

The respondents' opinions regarding the novel's suitability for all ages were diverse, reflecting different perspectives on the impact of its animal-centric themes and violent scenes. Samples 1 and 2 appreciated the choice of animal characters, which they believed made the novel universally appealing, especially to animal lovers of all ages. They perceived the story's portrayal of animals as endearing and relatable, contributing to its wide-ranging appeal. However, Sample 3 highlighted the need for parental guidance due to the presence of violent scenes in the novel. Despite the animal themes attracting readers of all ages, the presence of violence necessitated a cautious approach, particularly for younger readers. In a similar vein, Sample 6 also acknowledged the novel's broad audience appeal but emphasized the importance of exercising caution when it comes to violent depictions involving animals.

Interestingly, Sample 7 and Sample 8 presented differing opinions on the novel's target audience. While Sample 7 believed that the novel is more suitable for readers who can distinguish between right and wrong, particularly teenagers, Sample 8 asserted that teenagers and adults are the appropriate audience for the novel. Both samples recognized the need for mature readers who can grasp the ethical complexities portrayed in the story. Meanwhile, Sample 9 stressed the importance of understanding the difference between good and bad, indicating that the novel's content is relevant for both young and older readers alike. Lastly, Sample 10 underscored the role of character selection in making the novel appealing to readers of all ages. The selection of compelling characters contributes to the novel's ability to resonate with diverse readers, regardless of age, by providing relatable experiences and emotions. In conclusion, the respondents' varying opinions on the novel's suitability for all ages shed light on the multifaceted nature of *The Call of The Wild*, appealing to readers with distinct preferences and perspectives.

Question 4: *What do you think about the storyline of the novel providing a clear depiction of the completion of the story?*

The respondents' consensus on the novel's clear and well-structured storyline highlights the author's skill in presenting Buck's journey in an easily comprehensible manner. In Samples 1 and 2, readers lauded the novel's lucidity, expressing gratitude for the absence of confusion or convoluted plotlines that often detract from the reading experience. The novel's straightforward narration allows readers to immerse themselves fully in Buck's captivating journey without the burden of deciphering complex plot twists. Samples 3 and 4 further exemplify the vivid portrayal of Buck's life, from his initial domestication to his ultimate quest for freedom in the wild. The clarity in depicting Buck's evolution resonated with the readers, enabling them to form a strong emotional bond with the central character.

Similarly, in Samples 5 and 6, respondents acknowledged the author's ability to maintain a clear and coherent storyline throughout the novel. The readers' understanding of Buck's experiences and his eventual fate was seamless, as the novel provided a well-illustrated narrative that left no room for ambiguity. The smooth flow of the story engrossed the readers, allowing them to immerse themselves entirely in the world of Buck and his adventures. Samples 7 and 8 also commended the novel for its skilful portrayal of a series of impactful scenes that chart Buck's life journey. This consistent clarity contributed to the overall positive reading experience and allowed readers to comprehend and appreciate the novel's thematic depth. In conclusion, the novel's clear and well-illustrated plot, coupled with the readers' positive response, indicates the successful execution of the author's intent to deliver a compelling and accessible narrative in *The Call of The Wild*.

Question 5: *What do you think about the storyline of the novel being easy for readers to follow?*

The respondents' unanimous agreement on the novel's ease of comprehension and follow-through reflects its success in engaging readers of diverse backgrounds and age groups. In Samples 1, 2, 3, and 4, readers praised the straightforward nature of the storyline, which allowed them to immerse themselves effortlessly in the narrative. The absence of unnecessary complexities or convoluted plots was particularly appreciated, as it allowed for a seamless reading experience. Similarly, in Samples 5, 6, 7, and 8, respondents highlighted the clear depiction of each scene and the use of language that was light and accessible. The authors' ability to present the story straightforwardly and engagingly resonated with the readers, as they found themselves captivated by the unfolding events.

Moreover, Samples 9 and 10 further reinforced the novel's clarity and coherence. Readers acknowledged that the storyline was well-structured and devoid of confusing elements, allowing them to remain engrossed without getting lost in the plot. The novel's accessibility and ease of understanding were deemed instrumental in fostering a strong connection between the readers and the characters' journey. This positive response indicates that the novel successfully achieved its aim of reaching a wide audience, ensuring that readers from various backgrounds could appreciate and enjoy the story. The author's mastery in crafting a clear and uncomplicated narrative played a significant role in the readers' overall positive perception of *The Call of The Wild*.

Question 6: *What do you think about the storyline of the novel following the life of Buck?*

Buck's significant role and central position in driving the narrative forward were acknowledged by the respondents in their feedback. Across Samples 1, 2, 3, and 4, it was evident

that the readers perceived Buck as the main character who holds the pivotal role throughout the novel. They highlighted how the story revolves around Buck's transformation from a domesticated pet to a resilient and instinct-driven creature in the wild. The readers were captivated by Buck's journey and adventures, making him the focal point of their emotional engagement with the novel.

Additionally, in Samples 5 and 6, respondents appreciated the author's decision to choose an animal character like Buck as the main protagonist. This unique choice aroused the readers' curiosity and interest, as they empathized with the challenges and triumphs faced by a dog navigating a world of wilderness and survival. Samples 7, 8, and 9 reiterated Buck's importance as a main character, emphasizing his role in shaping the events and themes of the story. Moreover, these respondents also acknowledged the presence of other supporting characters connected to Buck, further highlighting the depth and complexity of the narrative. Sample 10 summed up the general sentiment by recognizing that Buck's life journey and experiences formed the core of the novel, resonating with readers and leaving a lasting impact on their understanding of the story.

In conclusion, Buck's character stands out as the heart and soul of *The Call of The Wild*, attracting readers with his vivid portrayal and central role. The responses from the readers demonstrated a strong appreciation for Buck's presence, emphasizing how his transformation and adventures were integral to the novel's appeal. The dynamic relationship between readers and Buck's character illustrates the power of literary reception and its ability to forge a deep connection between the audience and the narrative's protagonist.

Question 7: *What do you think about the setting described very clearly? So that the reader can imagine the story in detail.*

Respondents' unanimous agreement on the novel's ability to provide clear and vivid descriptions demonstrates the effectiveness of the author's writing in capturing the reader's imagination. Samples 1 to 6 highlighted the novel's clarity and precision in presenting information, allowing readers to easily visualize and comprehend the unfolding events and settings. The descriptive language used in the novel enables readers to create mental images of the scenes, characters, and emotions, thus enhancing their connection to the story. This skilful portrayal of details contributed to a richer reading experience, enabling the respondents to immerse themselves fully in the narrative.

Moreover, Samples 7 and 8 emphasized the wealth of detailed information present in the novel, enhancing the reader's ability to absorb and process the content effectively. These details provided a nuanced understanding of the characters' motivations, the dynamics of their interactions, and the overall atmosphere of the story. This level of depth in the descriptions allowed readers to engage more profoundly with the narrative, fostering an emotional connection to the characters and their experiences. Additionally, Samples 9 and 10 appreciated the clear delineation of time, place, and setting, which provided them with a strong sense of context and enabled them to closely follow the progression of the plot. The novel's evocative descriptions created a sense of presence, allowing the readers to envision themselves within the story, resulting in a more immersive and enjoyable reading experience. Overall, the respondents' collective recognition of the novel's descriptive prowess attests to its capacity to captivate and engage readers through the power of vivid storytelling.

Question 8: *What do you think about the setting described according to the content of the story?*

The respondents' unanimous agreement on the appropriateness and clarity of the setting in the novel demonstrates the author's skill in crafting a cohesive and immersive narrative. Samples 1, 3, 4, 7, and 10 emphasized the harmonious relationship between the setting and the story's content, illustrating how the well-described setting complemented and enhanced the overall plot. The novel's setting not only provided a backdrop for the events but also played a significant role in shaping the characters' experiences and interactions. This seamless integration of the setting into the storyline allowed the readers to fully grasp the context and immerse themselves in the world of the novel.

Moreover, Samples 2, 5, and 6 appreciated the unambiguous nature of the setting, praising how it effectively supported the narrative without leaving readers guessing or confused about its significance. The well-defined setting allowed the respondents to focus on the development of the story and the characters' journeys, deepening their emotional investment in the plot. Additionally, Samples 8 and 9 acknowledged the precise explanations of time and place, which contributed to the respondents' comprehensive understanding of the story. The detailed descriptions of the setting helped the readers visualize the scenes and understand the characters' motivations within their specific context. Overall, the respondents' appreciation of the setting's appropriateness and clarity further affirms the novel's ability to captivate readers by providing a well-crafted and compelling literary experience.

*Question 9: What do you think about the setting of place and time blended in balance?*

The respondents' unanimous agreement on the appropriateness and seamless integration of the setting in the novel speaks to the author's ability to craft a compelling and immersive literary experience. The balanced depiction of time and place within the story demonstrates the author's careful attention to detail, ensuring that readers are not left questioning or confused about the events unfolding in the narrative. The clear descriptions of the settings allowed the respondents to vividly visualize each scene, effectively immersing them in the story's world. This level of clarity and coherence in the setting contributed to the readers' overall understanding of the author's intended message and the themes explored throughout the novel.

Moreover, the respondents appreciated how the settings resonated with the content of the story, emphasizing that it enhanced the reading experience. The well-integrated setting not only provided a backdrop for the events but also played a significant role in shaping the characters' actions and decisions. It allowed the respondents to emotionally connect with the characters and their journeys, further enriching their engagement with the narrative. By praising the novel's setting for its suitability and clarity, the respondents underscore its crucial role in facilitating their understanding and enjoyment of the story. In conclusion, the respondents' positive reception of the novel's setting highlights its effectiveness in creating a cohesive and immersive reading experience, ultimately contributing to the novel's appeal and impact on its audience.

*Question 10: What do you think about Buck's character depicting true friendship and loyalty?*

The respondents' unanimous agreement on Buck's portrayal as a symbol of loyalty and friendship underscores the novel's success in delivering powerful moral lessons to its readers. Throughout the story, Buck's actions and behaviour consistently showcase his loyalty and devotion to his owner, highlighting the significance of reciprocating kindness and love. Readers are drawn to Buck's unwavering commitment to protecting and supporting his owner, exemplifying the true essence of friendship. The character of Buck serves as a compelling role model, reminding readers about the importance of treating others with respect and compassion.

The respondents' appreciation of Buck's loyalty and friendship further reveals how his character resonates with readers on a deeper level. Buck's unwavering devotion and friendly nature evoke empathy and admiration, leaving a lasting impact on the audience. As readers follow Buck's journey, they are not only entertained by the narrative but also enlightened by the profound moral lessons embedded within the story. The novel's ability to impart these valuable insights about human kindness and loyalty speaks to its enduring appeal and relevance across different generations. In conclusion, Buck's portrayal as a symbol of loyalty and friendship in the novel has a profound impact on the readers, instilling important values and life lessons that transcend the boundaries of fiction.

### **3.1.2 Intrinsic Elements**

#### **Theme**

In terms of theme, most of the respondents liked the novel themes of survival and return to the wild, with ten respondents stating their preference. They appreciated how the story depicted the dog's journey to survive various situations and eventually return to its natural habitat. However, there were differences of opinion regarding the themes of love and loyalty, with six respondents stating they liked it and four saying they did not like it. Those who liked him appreciated Buck's depiction of love and loyalty towards his master, while those who disliked him felt that not all of the masters in the novel show love and concern for Buck. In terms of suitability for all ages, seven respondents liked it, highlighting the appealing use of animal characters for both children and adults. However, three respondents did not like it because they felt that the novel contained elements of violence that might not be suitable for younger readers. Overall, the themes of survival and return to the wild were well-received, while opinions were mixed on themes of love and loyalty, and appropriateness for all ages. The theme of this novel about returning to the wild can be said to be a traditional theme because it meets the expectations of the readers and provides a satisfying conclusion. The novel effectively presents strong characters through vivid descriptions and explores Klondike's social setting during the Yukon gold rush, where dogs replaced horses as carriage pullers due to the challenging terrain.

#### **Plot**

In terms of plot, all respondents liked the clear delineation of the ending, with unanimous responses from all. They appreciated how the story was easy to understand and had a satisfying ending where Buck was able to live freely in the wilderness. Likewise, all respondents liked storylines that were easy for readers to follow, because they were uncomplicated, light, clear, and written in easy-to-understand language. Regarding following Buck's life story, there was a slight difference of opinion, one respondent stated that he did not like it. These respondents felt the novel involved many other characters besides Buck. However, the majority of respondents liked that Buck plays a dominant role from start to finish and found it well-described in the novel. The novel's plot begins with Buck living a comfortable life at Judge Miller's place in the Santa Clara Valley. Conflict arose when Buck was kidnapped and sold, leading to his transformation into a fighting dog and a harsh life as a freight train puller. The climax comes when Buck discovers the murder of his old master and takes revenge by chasing down and incapacitating Yeehats. Eventually, Buck found his true calling and formed his herd in the wild. Overall, respondents appreciated the vivid depiction and easy-to-follow nature of the novel's plot, with Buck's journey as its main focus. The plot effectively depicts Buck's transformation and quest for freedom, leading to a satisfying conclusion.



## Setting

All respondents said they liked the clear description of the setting in the novel, without disliking it. They appreciated how settings were vividly described, allowing readers to easily imagine the story in detail. They could vividly imagine every event and scene, even without Buck speaking, understanding his thoughts and actions. The setting is seen as very appropriate and following the contents of the story. Respondents liked stories that were clear and appropriate, without confusing or making the reader guess what the story meant. Depictions of time and place are well integrated, creating no confusion or uncertainty. The novel's setting is introduced early on, with Buck living in the sun-drenched Santa Clara Valley and then being pulled into the Klondike area during the gold rush. The event took place in Canada's Yukon territory. The time setting is also clearly described throughout the story. The changing weather and the passage of time are evident as Buck embarks on various journeys and experiences. The transition from winter silence to spring awakening is depicted. Overall, respondents appreciated the explicit and well-integrated setting descriptions, allowing them to fully immerse themselves in the story and understand the events that occurred.

## Characters and Characterizations

All respondents stated that they liked the characterization in the novel, without disliking it. They appreciated how Buck's character portrayed true friendship and loyalty, with Buck portrayed as a loyal animal and helper to his master. The friendship between animals and humans is evident and evident throughout the story. Buck's loyalty and love for his master, as well as the mutual love of John Thornton, were also well received. John Thornton's character which represents deep love is liked by all respondents. They observe the strong bond and love between Buck and John, and the actions the two characters take to save and protect each other. John's depth of love for Buck is emphasized and appreciated. Regarding Hal's character that shows aggression, all respondents said they liked this depiction. They view Hal as an evil and heartless character, lacking empathy and treating Buck and his group cruelly. Hal's aggressive nature stands out in the story, and respondents felt that he was one of the least empathetic characters. Hal's actions contribute to the conflict Buck faces and add tension to the narrative. Respondents appreciated the characterization of Buck, John Thornton, and Hal in the novel. Buck's loyalty and friendship, John Thornton's deep love, and Hal's combative nature are well portrayed and elicit an emotional response from readers. Buck is seen as the protagonist, evoking sympathy and empathy, whereas Hal serves as the antagonist, causing conflict and opposing Buck's character.

### 3.1.3. How Is The Aesthetic Of The Reader To The Novel The Call Of The Wild?

Based on the respondents' responses, the novel *The Call of The Wild* fulfilled the aesthetic requirements of clarity, logical arrangement, and precise proportions. Respondents unanimously agreed that the novel is clear in its description and presentation. They feel they can imagine every scene and understand the story well. The storyline is presented in such a way as to provide a clear picture of how the story will end so that the reader can follow along without confusion. In terms of logical structure, respondents appreciate how each chapter, scene, and story element is integrated and balanced. The plot, setting of place and time, characters, and characterizations all blend well and are arranged logically. The uncomplicated structure of the novel makes it easy for the reader to follow the story from start to finish. The integration of these elements creates a cohesive and well-paced narrative. Regarding the right proportions, respondents felt that the

novel was presented in the right size. They feel neither too long nor too short, balancing length and content. The story is easy to understand and gives a clear picture without being exaggerated. Respondents also agreed that the novel is suitable for readers of all ages, indicating its broad appeal. In summary, the respondents' feedback indicates that *The Call of The Wild* meets the aesthetic requirements of clarity, logical arrangement, and precise proportions. Vivid novel depiction, balanced integration of elements, and appropriate size contribute to the overall aesthetic appeal.

### 3.2. Discussion

According to the reception theory put forward by Jauss, readers' responses and interpretations may vary based on their respective experiences and knowledge. In the case of the novel *The Call of The Wild*, ten respondents provided their feedback and responses, each with their understanding and knowledge of the text. The respondents' statements reflect their different perspectives and interpretations, even though they have the same aims and objectives. Reception theory emphasizes that readers bring their own unique experiences and knowledge to their understanding of a text. The responses from the ten respondents who varied in social status and age indicated their varied reading experience and knowledge. Even though their answers may differ, they ultimately convey the same meaning and intent. The respondents provided varying interpretations and responses to the text, the core message, significance, or essence they derived from the text remains consistent. Despite having individual viewpoints and diverse backgrounds that influenced their understanding, the underlying message or essence of the text managed to resonate with each of them, leading to a common understanding or takeaway. In other words, their different perspectives ultimately led to a shared understanding of the text's fundamental meaning or purpose.

Jauss' reception theory, which posits that readers' responses to literary works are heavily influenced by their individual experiences and knowledge, the research findings regarding reader responses to the novel *The Call of The Wild* suggest a level of consistency in their interpretations. While Jauss' theory asserts that readers bring their unique perspectives to their understanding of a text, the respondents' statements in this research indicate a shared understanding and interpretation of the novel's intrinsic elements. Despite having varied social statuses and ages, the respondents' responses align to a considerable degree, implying a convergence of interpretations rather than the anticipated diversity.

It is important to note that individual interpretations of the novel's intrinsic elements may differ due to personal experiences and preferences. Each respondent's liking or distaste for a particular element could stem from personal experience or the element's unique qualities. Reception theory highlights the reader's ability to understand and accept text, which leads to different responses and interpretations. Jauss' theory of reception highlights those readers' responses to a text can vary due to their diverse experiences and knowledge. Theory helps in understanding the results of research studies by showing how respondents interpret the text of the novel. The various responses from the respondents show their ability to engage and respond to statements related to the intrinsic elements of the novel, thus reflecting a high level of understanding and responsiveness.

Additionally, the research portrays a collective agreement among respondents regarding the novel's aesthetic elements, including clarity, logical arrangement, and proportional development. This apparent consensus challenges Jauss' idea those readers' responses vary significantly due to their diverse experiences. The unanimity in perceiving the novel as clear, logically structured,

and possessing the right proportions suggests that the respondents may not have as much individual influence on their interpretations as proposed by Jauss.

Based on the respondents' responses, the aesthetic elements of the novel *The Call of The Wild* can be identified. These elements include clarity, logical arrangement or perfection, and the right proportions. Respondents unanimously agreed that the novel is clear and easy to understand, so they can understand its content without difficulty. The novel is also considered to have a logical and well-organized structure. Each chapter and scene seamlessly present the setting, plot, character, and characterization elements, creating a cohesive and coherent narrative. Respondents appreciated the natural storyline, finding it believable and relatable to real-world experiences. The writer's inspiration from the social environment contributed to this sense of authenticity.

In addition, the novel is considered to have the right proportions. It strikes a balance in terms of plot development, providing an appropriate amount of content without going overboard. Respondents felt that the story had a good plot and was suitable for readers of all ages and backgrounds. A balanced choice of themes and plots contributes to the reader's engagement and understanding of the work. Furthermore, the novel's aesthetic elements were found to have clarity and were logically arranged, which made it enjoyable to read.

The novel's balanced approach to themes and characters added to the overall appeal and enjoyment of the story. Furthermore, while Jauss' theory highlights the reader's subjective role in constructing meanings from a text, the research indicates a certain degree of objectivity in the respondents' shared perceptions. This contrasts with Jauss' emphasis on the subjective and diverse nature of reader responses.

Overall, the reception theory offers valuable insights into how readers interpret and respond to literary works like *The Call of The Wild*. Through varied responses and interpretations, the reader's unique experiences and knowledge shape their understanding and appreciation of the novel's intrinsic elements. The research of reader responses using qualitative descriptive methods allows researchers to explore the diverse perspectives and emotional reactions of readers, highlighting the richness and complexity of their engagement with the text. The findings of this research contribute to a deeper understanding of the novel's impact on its readers and the significance of its aesthetic elements in shaping their experiences.

In conclusion, the research findings regarding reader responses to *The Call of The Wild* challenge certain aspects of Jauss' reception theory. The level of agreement among respondents, particularly regarding aesthetic elements, questions the extent to which readers' experiences solely determine their interpretations. While Jauss' theory remains relevant, this research presents a unique case that merits a re-evaluation of the theory's applicability in every context.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In examining readers' intellectual responses to Jack London's novel "*The Call of The Wild*," a notable diversity of reactions among respondents becomes evident, particularly concerning the novel's thematic elements. These responses were gathered from a varied pool of individuals representing different social statuses, encompassing graduates, students, and workers of both genders. Out of the provided binary response options, 6 respondents expressed their liking for the novel, while 4 respondents conveyed their lack of affinity for it. Regarding other narrative components, only one respondent exhibited a divergent viewpoint concerning the plot, while the majority exhibited coherence in their perceptions. Through their responses, expert readers showcased their adeptness at engaging with the novel's intrinsic elements. The multifaceted array of answers and justifications underscore the pivotal significance of comprehensively grasping the

elements encapsulated within literary works, particularly within the domain of novels.

The discerned aesthetic elements that emerged from readers' responses encompassed attributes such as clarity, logical arrangement, and suitable proportions. Each reader contributed their distinct aesthetic viewpoint, shaped by their individual experiences and comprehension of the novel's content. These identified aesthetic elements play an integral role in shaping the overall appreciation of the novel's artistic construction.

In the realm of research, the undertaking of reception-based studies assumes paramount importance as it divulges the knowledge and perspectives of readers concerning literary works. Such investigations not only illuminate the qualitative essence of a literary piece but also position it within the broader literary landscape. Given the relatively limited exploration of research underpinned by reception theory, it is incumbent upon future researchers to embrace the theory's potential and delve into its application across diverse contexts and research inquiries. This endeavour holds the promise of unearthing novel insights and enhancing our comprehension of the intricate interplay between literary texts and the readers who engage with them.

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