

The due to kafka's double minority status of

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The author's insight into the lives of Jews living in Prague in *Metamorphosis* presents us with challenging tasks of Jews adapting to Western culture, whilst making them vulnerable to assimilation. The lack of an established place due to Kafka's double minority status of Jewish, Czech and German roots contributed to his struggle to communicate with others and his lack of an established place in society profoundly affected his writing. My understanding of Kafka's use of analytical and disinterested tone throughout *Metamorphosis* is that his inner havoc to define himself combined with a disconnection from his community, allowed him to write in this fashion. In relation to literary modernism, Kafka expresses alienation and uncertainty of life in a rapidly changing world by suggesting that Gregor has no distinct culture and is alienated from humanity.

In a way, *Metamorphosis* allows for Kafka's inability to express his feelings of powerlessness and detachment from community. My understanding of feminism in *Metamorphosis* is reflected through Kafka's personal life and interaction with women. Kafka wrote many letters to women, emphasising his own weaknesses, whilst pursuing strength from them. His personal relationships with women mirror Gregor's debilitating condition and the presence of female caregivers; his mother and sister.

Kafka and Gregor's inadequacy in their masculinity is implied by their actions. It can be understood that Gregor seeks to live as a woman, which is seen through his transformation from animus, being the only earning member of the family, to anima, living as passive and feminine. This can be a reflection of Kafka's personal experience through his writing. Literary modernism is apparent in *Metamorphosis* by his unfamiliar style of writing, which evidently

is influenced by literary modernism. During literary modernism, there was separation between areas of art and literature and realist movements, whereby spiritual ideas were lacking.

Throughout the narrative, no realism before Gregor's metamorphosis can be deduced, precluding any concept of a possible escape from this reality other than within the subconscious mind of Gregor himself. This transition and newly modernistic convention allowed for ideas of the loss of the real, which is strongly evidenced in *Metamorphosis*. Through our group discussion, surrounding contextual topics and the effects of Kafka's milieu through his writing, I realised his writing was greatly influenced by the world he lived in and events that occurred throughout his life.