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PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH AND CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL NOVELS OF THE XX CENTURY

M.T.Elmanova
PhD, Bukhara State University, Bukhara
S.S.Ruziyeva
Master's student, Bukhara State University, Bukhara

Abstract

Historical events in American society, such as the Civil War, industrialization, racial inequality, feminist movements, and globalization, have led to the growth of psychological analysis in literary works. In the work of African-American writers, psychological trauma and historical memory have become central issues in psychological analysis. In the era of postmodernism, the analysis of the human psyche has reached a new level, studying how mass media, technology, and consumer society affect consciousness. In American literature, psychological analysis has become not only an aesthetic tool, but also an important method for understanding socio-philosophical processes.

Key words

stream of consciousness, psyche, consciousness, psychological analysis, psychological meaning, American dream.

Introduction

American literature is one of the important literary schools that has demonstrated its own unique methods in studying the human psyche, internal experiences, and processes of consciousness. During the period of realism in the 19th century, writers, in addition to describing human life through external events, paid special attention to illuminating the internal decisions and mental suffering of the characters. Modernism of the 20th century widely introduced new methods of psychological analysis, such as stream of consciousness, internal monologue, fragmentation of time and memory.

Through this, literature focused on revealing the complex and contradictory layers of the human psyche. In addition, historical events that occurred in American society, such as the Civil War, industrialization, racial inequality, feminist movements, and globalization processes, led to the intensification of psychological analysis in literary works. In the work of African-American writers, psychological trauma and historical memory became the central issue of psychological analysis. In the period of postmodernism, the analysis of the human psyche reached a new level, and the impact of mass media, technology, and consumer society on consciousness was studied.

The work of Henry James, one of the writers of the Realism era, is a vivid example of psychological analysis. In his work *The Portrait of a Lady*, the life decisions of the main character *Isabel Archer*, her desire to determine her own destiny as an independent person, are described through deep psychological analysis.[1] James emphasizes showing not the external actions of the hero, but his inner world, doubts, suffering, and spiritual conflicts. In this regard, his works are often called *"psychological novels"*. In addition, works such as Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* or *Ethan Frome* also illuminate the conflicts between society and the individual through psychological analysis. By describing the inner world of Wharton's

[1] James, H. (2019). The Portrait of a Lady. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

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characters, he shows how the cruel rules of the social classes of that time affected the human psyche.

Literature review

Through close readings of representative works of twentieth-century opposition to society: Edith Wharton's *"House of Mirth"* (1905), F. Scott Fitzgerald's *"Great Gatsby"* (1925), Arthur Miller's *"Death of a Salesman"* (1949), Thomas Pynchon's *"Crying of Lot"* 49 (1966), and Joseph Heller's *"Something Happened"* (1974) we can examine the ways in which these texts reveal instead how psyche and society intersect in terms of the most pervasive ideological site upon which the American psyche has projected itself: the American dream.

Research methodology

This research adopts a qualitative, interpretive approach, primarily utilizing close reading and textual analysis to explore the nuanced representations of the human psyche and evolutionary character arcs. So as to find psychological factor a number of American novel should be read by the researcher such as Edith Wharton's *"House of Mirth"* (1905), F. Scott Fitzgerald's *"Great Gatsby"* (1925), Arthur Miller's *"Death of a Salesman"* (1949), Thomas Pynchon's *"Crying of Lot"* 49 (1966), and Joseph Heller's *"Something Happened"* (1974). By the way character development can also be found during the climax of the work.

Discussion and results

According to Davis, if we fully submit existential subjectivity to the dialectical process implicit in the existential view of human experience, we emerge with a model of the individual as a historically situated (Marxist) subject of (psychoanalytic) desire, condemned to his or her own (existential) freedom to be either in collusion with social forces-consciously or unconsciously-or to resist. And this subjectivity is in-formed by what I would call a destablized Hegelianism: the dialectical relationship between the individual and the socius-like that among the Marxist, psychoanalytic, and existential realities that constitute sub-jectivity does not issue in some reified Geist, but remains in a state of contingency and flux, anchored in the real world, utterly existential-ized. A dialectical model of existential subjectivity thus merges the heretofore opposed categories in which other definitions of subjectivity have been grounded.

From F. O. Matthiessen's portrait of American Renaissance writers as literary revolutionaries committed to exploring the possibilities of a self-expression inspired by the lack of a specifically American literary tradition, to Donald Pease's provocative reconsideration of the motives of American Renaissance writers in terms of their desire for community and continuity, critics of American literature have treated the individual and the socius as interactive but discrete entities.

As Walter Davis argues in *Inwardness and Existence*: *Subjectivity in/and Hegel, Heidegger, Marx, and Freud,* existentialism, properly con-ceived, "transcends the social-individual dichotomy" that in-forms ongoing debates between deconstruction and traditional humanism and between Marxism and psychoanalysis.[2]

One of the most important techniques in the modernist era is the stream of consciousness method, which refers to the direct depiction of the chaotic flow of thoughts, memories, dreams, and emotions in the human mind. This method allows for a deep analysis of the character's psyche, as the stream of consciousness reveals the hidden layers of human thinking, including subconscious processes.

[2] Tyson, Lois. Psychological politics of the American dream: The commodification of subjectivity in twentieth-century American literature. Ohio State University Press, 1994.

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One of the greatest writers is Toni Morrison, whose novel Beloved (1987) is considered the pinnacle of psychological analysis in African-American literature. In the work, the main character, *Sethe,* struggles with her own psychological suffering, fears, and memories of slavery. She is forced to kill her child to save him from slavery, an event that remains a source of severe psychological distress for the rest of her life. Throughout the novel, images of trauma and memory are repeatedly relived in the heroine's psyche.

Conclusion

In literature, psychological analysis is one of the most important methods for illuminating the human psyche and inner world. It not only reveals the feelings, fears and suffering of an individual, but also allows for a deep understanding of the impact of social, cultural and historical processes in society on the consciousness of an individual. In the example of American literature, it can be seen that each era introduced its own methods into psychological analysis: in the era of realism, internal monologues and dialogues, in the era of modernism, stream of consciousness and internal introspective research, and in the era of postmodernism, methods of illuminating the human psyche through fragmented narratives, irony and symbols of mass culture were formed. In the works of African-American writers, psychological analysis is closely connected with historical traumas and collective memory, showing the human psyche in the context of the struggle for social justice.

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