

ISSN: 2692-5206, Impact Factor: 12,23

American Academic publishers, volume 05, issue 04,2025



Journal: https://www.academicpublishers.org/journals/index.php/ijai

FORMS OF ADDRESS TO WOMEN IN HONORE DE BALZAC'S "THE PRAYER OF THE ATHEIST"

Ziyadullayeva Mohira Tagayevna

Samarkand State Institute of Economics and Service, "Foreign Languages" Department, Trainee Teacher

Yakhshimurodov Umarjon

Teacher at Samarkand Technicum of Tourism And Cultural Heritage

Annotation: Honoré de Balzac, a prominent figure in French literature, was born in Tours, into a not very wealthy family of a civil servant, descended from a peasant family. He could not fully realize his ambitious plan, but the 95 novels written for the "Comedy of Humanity" reveal the true face of French society at that time, which Balzac himself called "the great comedy of our century" or "the devil's comedy". In addition to the 95 novels united under the title "Comedy of Humanity", Balzac created dozens of works, five plays, critical articles and a collection of short stories "Ominous Stories". Among these works is the work "The Prayer of an Atheist". This article contains information about the forms of appeal to women in the work "The Prayer of an Atheist".

Key words: Honoré de Balzac, "The Prayer of the Atheist", novella, "The Human Comedy", "madam", "mademoiselle", Polina, Grafinya, "lady", Fedora.

Honoré de Balzac (20 May 1799 – 18 August 1850) was a French novelist and playwright. Balzac is considered one of the world's greatest writers.¹

Honoré de Balzac wrote a number of novels, stories, plays, and essays. Balzac's creative legacy is vast and diverse in terms of genre: novels, short stories, and plays. One of his works is "The Prayer of the Atheist".

"The Prayer of an Atheist" was written by Honoré de Balzac in 1836. He wrote in a letter to Madame Ganskaya on January 18, 1836, that it was "a story conceived, written, and printed in one night." The novella was included in the writer's collection "The Human Comedy".

"The Prayer of the Atheist" is a very beautiful and touching story. The protagonist of the work is a respected surgeon, Desplaine. He is distinguished by his religiously adamant atheistic nature and his belief only in science. Desplaine's student, Horatio Bianchon, also works in the hospital, where he works as the head of the surgical department. One day, he

-

¹ The story "Gobsek" is in the Ziyouz library.



ISSN: 2692-5206, Impact Factor: 12,23

American Academic publishers, volume 05, issue 04,2025



Journal: https://www.academicpublishers.org/journals/index.php/ijai

accidentally notices how Desplaine entered the church. Bianchon, moved by his master's behavior, asks him to explain it frankly. And he reveals his interesting past.

Desplein suffered a lot in life and survived by fighting against difficulties. While suffering from hunger, a poor man lends a helping hand to the future famous surgeon. It was a simple locksmith, Mr. Bourget. The old man believes that this young student Desplein has a bright future.

Bourgeois took care of Desplein as if he were his own father, and despite being a poor man himself, he was very generous. But although Desplein grew up to be one of the best surgeons in the world, he could not save his teacher and friend, Mr. Bourgeois, from death. No matter how skilled a doctor in the world, death is an absolute reality. Interestingly, Desplein felt this deeply, he deeply regretted that he could not help the person who had made him human. Mr. Bourgeois, who was his patron, was a very pious man, and all Desplein could do was go to church every year and pray for his teacher.

Despite his poverty, Mr. Bourgeois was rich in his generosity and sincerity, and he gave without thinking of getting anything in return: he did great humanitarian work! Desplein did not believe in God, although this was one of his principles, but when he could not save a person who had done him good in the past, he was forced to pray. Because he had found and lost a person who had radically changed his life.

Despite its brevity, the story is one of Balzac's most powerful works. A story of selflessness and faith in people, and a story of gratitude. Perhaps the world would not have known about the talented surgeon Desplein if the simple water carrier Mr. Bourgeois had not helped him in his youth.

Although Bourgeois himself barely made ends meet, he gave up both his money and his dream to help a talented and poor young man. Desplein became a famous doctor, but he never forgot who "made him a man." The upbringing given by Bourgeois, a simple water carrier, forced even a staunch atheist like Desplein to pray for his benefactor. The feeling of self-sacrifice and self-renunciation will always remain one of the most beautiful qualities of a person.

Now let us consider the forms of addressing women in this work.

Honoré de Balzac's "The Prayer of the Atheist" ("La Messe de l'athée") is a short story with deep philosophical and emotional layers, in which the forms of addressing women also play an important role. Although the female characters in the work are few, they participate in an important dramatic and moral context. Also, the forms of addressing women serve to reveal the author's realist style, the image of women in society, and to more deeply describe the relationships between the characters.

In Honore de Balzac's "The Prayer of the Atheist" ("La Peau de chagrin")the forms of addressing women serve to reveal the author's realist style, the image of women in society, and to further describe the relationships between the characters.



ISSN: 2692-5206, Impact Factor: 12,23

American Academic publishers, volume 05, issue 04,2025



Journal: https://www.academicpublishers.org/journals/index.php/ijai

Appeals related to social status.

When addressing women, Balzac takes into account their social status, origin, and place in society. For example, noble women are addressed with formal titles such as "madam" and "mademoiselle" This reflects the social structure of the time.

As an example of this, the following example from the work can be cited.

"I have overheard some of your conversation with **Mademoiselle** de Granlay, and I would like to join you in your conversation!" exclaimed the family friend whose name was mentioned in the book. "I have won, Count," he said to his companion. "I hasten to leave you in your own hands and to assist your nephew".²

The Justice de Granlay glanced at **Madame**, and understood that the story would be of interest to her.³

Discussion and emotional diversity.

In the dialogues with women in the work, the forms of address change depending on the emotional state. For example, in the conversations between Rafael and **Fedora**, there is a sense of coldness and indifference - this is also reflected in the addresses. However, the relationship with **Polina** is warmer, more sincere - this is reflected in the forms of address that are spoken softly, with affection.

The balance of power between men and women

The way women are addressed in Balzac's work also shows the balance of power between men and women. For example, while Fedora is an independent, cold character, Raphael addresses her formally, sometimes sarcastically. Through this, Balzac shows the influence of women, or, conversely, their spiritual superiority over men.

This work also contains forms of address such as **Grafinya**.

Grafinya is very cunning, she puts herself in a thousand positions for a thousand francs! She smiles with open beauty, her tongue speaks softly with a smoothness.⁴ The work also uses the form of address, such as "lady".

It was a great light to have left the money with the housekeeper, but I was eager to see the woman who owed me money. For some reason she seemed to me frivolous and frivolous. So I spent the morning looking at the engravings in the shop windows. But at noon I was in the hotel room next to the grafinya's bedroom.

-

² Honore de Balzac: "The Prayer of an Atheist". Tashkent. 2016. 5 page.

³ Honore de Balzac: "The Prayer of an Atheist". Tashkent. 2016. 6 page.

⁴ Honore de Balzac: "The Prayer of an Atheist". Tashkent. 2016. 23 page.



ISSN: 2692-5206, Impact Factor: 12,23

American Academic publishers, volume 05, issue 04,2025



Journal: https://www.academicpublishers.org/journals/index.php/ijai

"My lady just called," the servant man told me. "I don't think they can see you right now."⁵

Addressed with respect and sincerity

The work shows women, especially the daughter-in-law of a sick old man or the wife of his child - a pregnant woman, in need of kindness and protection. Dr. Desplein, without being indifferent to this woman, tries to protect and care for her.

Faith and Love in the Image of Women

In this story, Balzac uses female characters to explore concepts related to human love, family ties, and even faith. The woman's prayerful posture makes Desplein deeply think - through this, Balzac shows women as a source of spiritual strength.

Pity and empathy for women

The work portrays women as weak but strong spiritual beings. The male characters (especially Desplein) approach them with affection, pity, and empathy. Balzac's approach to female characters

Balzac creates female characters in a variety of ways: innocent (**Polina**), selfish (**Fedora**), kind, idealistic, etc. He approaches each of them with a unique, appropriate appeal. Through this, the author reveals their character and place in society more deeply.

It is enough to read just one of Balzac's stories to understand how well he understands and describes human thought, inner experiences, psychology, and humanity. This is a short story, but it has deep philosophical and emotional layers, and the forms of addressing women also play an important role in it.

References:

- 1. Adamson, Donald (1986). "Le Père Goriot devant la critique anglaise". L'Année balzacienne (in French). 7. ISSN 1969-6752. In L'Année balzacienne. II. 20. Garnier Frères. 1999. ISBN 978-2-13-050961-5.
- 2. Brooks, Peter (2005). Realist Vision. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN 0-300-10680-7.
- 3. Saintsbury, George (1911). "Balzac, Honoré de" . In Chisholm, Hugh (ed.). Encyclopædia Britannica. Vol. 3 (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. pp. 298–301.
- 4. Stowe, William W. (1983). "Systematic Realism". In: Honoré de Balzac. Edited by Harold Bloom. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers. ISBN 0-7910-7042-5.
- 5. The story "Gobsek" is in the Ziyouz library.
- 6. Zweig, Stefan (1946). Balzac. New York: Viking Press.

-

⁵ Honore de Balzac: "The Prayer of an Atheist". Tashkent. 2016. 24 page.