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AMERIKA ADABIYOTIDA BOLALIKNING BADIY XUSUSIYATLARI

Annotatsiya

Amerika adabiyotida bolalikning tasvirlanishi nafaqat o'tmishni qo'rsash, balki inson tabiati va jamiyati haqidagi chuqurroq haqiqatlarni ochib beradigan dinamik badiiy vositadir. Aybsizlikni ramziy vositalar orqali tasvirlash, ijtimoiy tuzilmalarni tanqid qilish yoki psixologik o'sishni o'rganishdan qat'iy, bolalik adabiy ifodani shakllantirishda davom etadigan asosiy motiv bo'lib qoladi. Qo'llaniladigan turli xil texnikalar-birinchi shaxs rivoyatidan tortib eksperimental ong oqimigacha-badiiy xususiyat sifatida bolalikning boyligi va ko'p qirraliligini namoyish etadi. Adabiyot rivojlanib borar ekan, bolalik tasviri, shubhasiz, Amerika madaniyati va tafakkurining o'zgaruvchan manzaralarini aks ettirishda davom etadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Bolalik, tasvir, simvolizm, begunohlik, ijtimoiy tengsizlik, nutq, bosh qahramon, antagonist, irqchilik, realism.

THE ARTISTIC FEATURES OF CHILDHOOD IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Annotation

The representation of childhood in American literature is not merely a nostalgic reflection of the past but a dynamic artistic device that reveals deeper truths about human nature and society. Whether used to symbolize innocence, critique social structures, or explore psychological growth, childhood remains a fundamental motif that continues to shape literary expression. The diverse techniques employed—ranging from first-person narration to experimental stream-of-consciousness—demonstrate the richness and versatility of childhood as an artistic feature. As literature evolves, the portrayal of childhood will undoubtedly continue to reflect the ever-changing landscapes of American culture and thought.

Key words: Childhood, representation, symbolism, innocence, social injustice, speech, protagonist, antagonist, racism, realism.

ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННОЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ДЕТСТВА В АМЕРИКАНСКОЙ ЛИТЕРАТУРЕ

Аннотация

Изображение детства в американской литературе — это не просто ностальгическое отражение прошлого, но и динамичный художественный прием, раскрывающий более глубокие истины о природе человека и общества. Независимо от того, используется ли он для обозначения невинности, критика социальных структур или изучения психологического роста, детство остается основополагающим мотивом, который продолжает формировать литературное самовыражение. Используемые разнообразные техники — от повествования от первого лица до экспериментального потока сознания — демонстрируют богатство и многогранность детства как художественного явления. По мере развития литературы изображение детства, несомненно, будет продолжать отражать постоянно меняющиеся ландшафты американской культуры и мышления.

Ключевые слова: Детство, изображение, символизм, невинность, социальная несправедливость, речь, главный герой, враг, расизм, реализм.

Introduction. Childhood in literature is a theme within writing concerned with depictions of adolescence. Childhood writing is often told from either the perspective of the child or that of an adult reflecting on their childhood. American literature has long been fascinated with the depiction of childhood, using it as a lens to explore themes of innocence, growth, identity, and societal transformation. From the nostalgic portrayals of idyllic youth to the more nuanced and even tragic interpretations, childhood in American literature serves as a powerful artistic motif. Writers across different literary movements—whether Romantic, Realist, Modernist, or Postmodernist—have leveraged childhood as a means of examining broader cultural and philosophical questions. Literature Review.

American children's literature has evolved significantly since its inception, reflecting and shaping societal values, cultural norms, and educational philosophies. This literature review explores key developments, thematic trends, and critical analyses within the field.

The roots of American children's literature trace back to the 19th century, with early works often imbued with moral and didactic lessons. Over time, the genre expanded to include diverse narratives that entertain, educate, and reflect the multifaceted experiences of American youth. For instance, the period between 1930 and 1960 saw authors like Laura Ingalls Wilder and Virginia Lee Burton addressing themes such as racism, immigration, and gender roles, aiming to define the American experience and promote social justice.

Historically, children's literature often marginalized or stereotyped certain groups. For example, studies have shown that male characters were predominantly featured, with female characters often relegated to passive roles.

Similarly, Native American representations were frequently biased or inaccurate, prompting a reevaluation of such portrayals to foster authenticity and respect.

The portrayal of gender roles in children's literature has been a subject of critique and transformation. Earlier works often depicted traditional gender roles, but over time, there has been a conscious effort to present more balanced and empowering representations. Studies in the late 20th century indicated progress, with female characters appearing more frequently and taking on diverse roles beyond traditional stereotypes.

Holidays and cultural events have been prominent themes in children's literature, serving as backdrops to explore familial and societal dynamics. From Christmas tales to stories centered around the Fourth of July, these narratives offer insights into cultural values and traditions.

Research methodology. This article explores the artistic features of childhood in American literature, emphasizing its symbolic, thematic, and stylistic significance.

The Symbolism of Childhood

One of the most profound artistic features of childhood in American literature is its symbolic weight. The figure of the child often represents innocence, purity, and uncorrupted potential. This is particularly evident in the works of Romantic writers such as

Henry David Thoreau and Nathaniel Hawthorne, who viewed childhood as a state closer to nature and untainted by societal constraints.

For example, in Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" (1885), Huck embodies both innocence and moral clarity, challenging the hypocrisy of the adult world. His journey down the Mississippi River serves as an allegory for self-discovery and ethical awakening, where the child's perspective exposes societal contradictions, such as racism and injustice. Twain's artistic use of dialect and vernacular speech enhances the authenticity of childhood expression, making Huck's voice a compelling narrative tool.

Similarly, Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" (1960) employs childhood as a means of confronting moral dilemmas. Through the eyes of Scout Finch, readers experience a world where racial prejudice and moral complexity are gradually unveiled. The novel's child-narrator technique allows for an unfiltered, often poignant critique of adult hypocrisy, making childhood an artistic medium for revealing deeper social truths.

Themes of Growth and Loss of Innocence

The literary representation of childhood often grapples with the theme of 'bildungsroman', or coming-of-age, where the child protagonist undergoes significant personal development. This motif is prevalent in J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye" (1951), in which Holden Caulfield exhibits both a yearning for childhood innocence and an inevitable confrontation with the adult world's complexities. Salinger's artistic portrayal of Holden's internal monologue and stream-of-consciousness style adds a layer of psychological realism, making his transition from childhood to adulthood profoundly tangible.

Likewise, "Little Women" (1868-69) by Louisa May Alcott portrays the growth of the four March sisters, particularly Jo, whose artistic aspirations and struggles with societal expectations encapsulate the nuanced transition from childhood to adulthood. Alcott's use of sentimental realism allows her to depict childhood with warmth and depth while engaging with feminist undertones that challenge traditional gender roles.

Narrative Techniques and Stylistic Features

Beyond symbolism and theme, the literary depiction of childhood is enhanced by distinct narrative techniques. Many American authors employ first-person narration to capture the immediacy of a child's perspective, as seen in "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "The Catcher in the Rye". This technique allows for an intimate and often unfiltered depiction of childhood emotions, thoughts, and misunderstandings.

In contrast, William Faulkner's "The Sound and the Fury" (1929) uses stream-of-consciousness narration to present childhood through the eyes of Benjy Compson, a cognitively impaired character whose fragmented perceptions challenge conventional storytelling. Faulkner's experimental style underscores the innocence and vulnerability of childhood while highlighting the breakdown of Southern aristocracy.

Childhood as a Reflection of Society

While childhood is often idealized, American literature also explores its darker aspects, including themes of poverty, abuse, and loss. In Richard Wright's "Black Boy" (1945), the autobiographical narrative of a Black child growing up in the racially segregated South highlights the brutal realities of systemic oppression. Wright's raw and evocative prose transforms childhood from a state of innocence into a battleground of survival and resilience.

Similarly, Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" (1969) presents a childhood marked by trauma and self-discovery. Angelou's lyrical style and vivid imagery turn childhood memories into a powerful exploration of race, gender, and identity. These works underscore how the artistic depiction of childhood can serve as a poignant critique of social injustice.

Analyses and results. American literature portrays childhood through various artistic lenses, reflecting evolving societal values and cultural contexts.

Early American literature often depicted children as embodiments of innocence and purity, aligning with Romantic ideals. This portrayal presented childhood as a time of untainted virtue, contrasting with the complexities of adult life.

Authors like Beverly Cleary introduced realism into children's literature by focusing on the everyday experiences of middle-class American children. Her characters, such as Ramona Quimby, navigated common childhood challenges, making them relatable to young readers.

Illustrations have played a significant role in conveying the essence of childhood. Kate Greenaway's *Under the Window* combined her own verses with illustrations of children in period attire, creating a detached, static effect that allowed readers to observe the scenes as if from a distance.

Works like Ezra Jack Keats' *The Snowy Day* celebrate children's imagination. Keats used collage techniques and vibrant illustrations to depict the wonder of a child's first experience with snow, capturing the simplicity and depth of childhood curiosity.

The interplay between childhood and modernist art has influenced literary portrayals, with children's mark-making and creativity inspiring modernist aesthetics. This intersection explores how children's uninhibited artistic expressions have impacted broader artistic movements.

Faith Ringgold's *Tar Beach* uniquely combines quilt-making, autobiography, and painting to reflect childhood experiences. The narrative captures the essence of a child's perspective, blending various art forms to tell a rich, culturally grounded story.

These artistic features demonstrate the multifaceted approaches American literature employs to depict childhood, ranging from idealized innocence to authentic, diverse experiences.

Conclusion and Recommendations. American children's literature continues to adapt, reflecting societal changes and addressing the diverse needs of its audience. Ongoing critical analysis and conscious efforts towards inclusivity are essential to ensure that children's literature serves as both a mirror and a window to the world, fostering understanding, empathy, and a love for reading among young audiences.

The representation of childhood in American literature is not merely a nostalgic reflection of the past but a dynamic artistic device that reveals deeper truths about human nature and society. Whether used to symbolize innocence, critique social structures, or explore psychological growth, childhood remains a fundamental motif that continues to shape literary expression. The diverse techniques employed—ranging from first-person narration to experimental stream-of-consciousness—demonstrate the richness and versatility of childhood as an artistic feature. As literature evolves, the portrayal of childhood will undoubtedly continue to reflect the ever-changing landscapes of American culture and thought.

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