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## THE PECULIARITY OF HORROR GENRE IN THE STYLE OF STEPHEN KING

Annotation

This article explores the peculiarities of the horror genre by Stephen King, focusing on how his personal biography, unique writing style, contribute to his success as a master of horror. The aim is to analyze how King's challenging upbringing and personal experiences influenced on his storytelling, particularly his depiction of fear, isolation, and societal flaws. This study also examines King's writing style, characterized by a blend of realistic settings and supernatural elements, vivid character development, and psychological depth, which create an immersive and unsettling reading experience. Additionally, the paper delves into King's usage of the pseudonym Richard Bachman, highlighting how this allowed him to explore darker, more pessimistic themes, offering a contrast to his mainstream works.

**Key words:** Writing style, horror, critics, supernatural, mainstream, pessimistic, pseudonym, psychology.

## СВОЕОБРАЗИЕ ЖАНРА УЖАСА В СТИЛЕ СТИВЕНА КИНГА

Аннотация

Эта статья исследует особенности жанра ужаса Стивена Кинга, сосредотачиваясь на том, как его личная биография и уникальный стиль письма способствуют его успеху как мастера ужасов. Цель состоит в том, чтобы проанализировать, как сложное детство и личные переживания Кинга повлияли на его повествование, особенно на изображение страха, изоляции и недостатков общества. Это исследование также рассматривает литературный стиль Кинга, который характеризуется сочетанием реалистичных декораций и сверхъестественных элементов, яркой проработкой персонажей и психологической глубиной, что создает погружающий и тревожный опыт чтения. Кроме того, статья также рассматривает использование Кингом псевдонима Ричард Бахман, подчеркивая, как это позволило ему исследовать более мрачные, пессимистичные темы, предлагая контраст его произведениям мейнстрима.

**Ключевые слова:** Литературный стиль, ужас «хоррор», критики, сверхъестественное, мейнстрим, пессимистичный, псевдоним, психология.

## STIVEN KINGNING USLUBIDAGI DAHSHAT JANRINING O‘ZIGA HOSHLIGI

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqola Stiven King tomonidan yaratilgan qo‘rqinchli janrning xususiyatlarini o‘rganadi, uning shaxsiy tarjimaiy holi va o‘ziga xos yozish uslubi uning qo‘rqinch janri ustasi sifatidagi muvaffaqiyatiga qanday hissa qo‘shishiga e‘tibor qaratadi. Maqsad - Kingning murakkab bolaligi va shaxsiy kechinmalari uning hikoyasiga, ayniqsa, qo‘rquv, izolyatsiya va jamiyatdagi kamchiliklar tasviriga qanday ta‘sir ko‘rsatganligini tahlil qilishdir. Ushbu tadqiqot, shuningdek, Kingning realistik dekoratsiyalar va g‘ayritabiiy elementlarning uyg‘unligi, personajlarning yorqin ishlashi va psixologik teranligi bilan ajralib turadigan yozish uslubini ko‘rib chiqadi, bu esa chuqur va xavotirli o‘qish tajribasini yaratadi. Bundan tashqari, maqola Kingning Richard Bachman taxallusidan foydalanishini o‘rganadi, va bu taxallus unga qayg‘uli, pessimistik mavzularni tadqiq qilish imkonini berganiga urg‘u berib, uning meynstrim asarlariga qarama-qarshilikni paydo qiladi.

**Kalit so‘zlar:** Adabiy uslub, dahshat, tanqid, g‘ayritabiiylik, asosiy oqim, pessimistik, taxallus, psixologiya.

**Introduction.** Stephen King, one of the most well-known and influential authors in the horror genre, who has managed to gain recognition not only from a wide audience but also from literary critics, thanks to his unique ability to create an atmosphere of fear and tension. His creative journey began in the 1970s and has since encompassed dozens of novels, novellas, and short stories, many of which have become cult classics. The biography of S. King, his life's ups and downs, as well as the influence of personal experiences on his work, play a key role in shaping his authorial style. Critics note his mastery in creating memorable characters, a tense plot, and meticulously crafted settings that enhance the feeling of anxiety and horror. The writer's unique ability to use the everyday as a foundation for the most horrifying scenarios is remarkable: whether it's a small town familiar to everyone or the inner world of a person filled with contradictions that not only frighten but also provoke thought about the nature of evil

and the fear inherent in every human being. The features of S. King's style are a combination of realism with elements of the supernatural, psychological depth of characters, and a sharp focus on social and cultural aspects, which allows readers not only to experience fear but also to reflect on the underlying issues of society.

**Literature review.** King's biography plays a crucial role in shaping his approach to horror. According to several studies, including those by Bender (2013) and Rogers (2015) [1], King's difficult upbringing, marked by poverty, family instability, and the absence of his father, deeply influenced his thematic focus on fear, loss, and societal critique. Scholars like Magistrale (2010) [2], argue that King's personal struggles and experiences with societal injustices are reflected in his works, where ordinary people face extraordinary threats. King himself acknowledges the impact of his childhood on his writing, often describing how his early fears and experiences

with economic hardship permeate his narratives (King, 2000) [3].

Stephen King's writing style is characterized by a mix of realism, psychological depth, and supernatural elements, making his horror both relatable and terrifying. Critics such as Collings (2011) [4], highlight King's mastery in creating detailed settings that feel authentic, thereby intensifying the impact of the horror elements. His ability to develop rich, multi-dimensional characters allows readers to connect emotionally with the story, heightening the sense of fear when these characters face unimaginable horrors (Winter, 1996) [5]. King's works often delve into the darker aspects of human nature, societal flaws, and the psychology of fear, offering more than just surface-level scares. His narratives frequently explore themes of isolation, inner demons, and the fragility of the human psychology, positioning his horror within a broader commentary on human experience. As noted by critics like Spignesi (1991) [6] and Underwood (1992) [7], Bachman's novels often focus on despair, hopelessness, and the darker side of human nature, portraying characters trapped in grim and often inescapable situations

King's has redefined what horror can be, blending traditional gothic elements with contemporary societal concerns. Scholars like Bloom (2007) [8] and Wiater (2001) [9] emphasize that King's works resonate because they reflect the fears and anxieties of modern life, making his horror both personal and universal.

**Research methodology.** The research employs qualitative methods, with a strong emphasis on literary analysis, to delve into the nuances of King's narrative techniques and thematic explorations. As methodology were used literary Analysis which involves a close reading of Stephen King's novels, short stories, and works published under the pseudonym Richard Bachman. The goal is to identify recurring themes, stylistic features, and narrative techniques that define King's approach to horror. Content analysis focuses on how King constructs his settings, develops characters, and uses supernatural elements to evoke fear and suspense.

Another important one is biographical analysis, that examines Stephen King's life, focusing on significant events, personal challenges, and influences that have shaped his writing.

The last important analyses are comparative analysis and review of critical literature. King's mainstream horror novels and the works published under his pseudonym Richard Bachman is conducted to highlight differences in tone, theme, and narrative style. The Bachman books often explore grimmer, more pessimistic themes, offering a stark contrast to King's typical horror.

**Analysis and results.** Stephen King was born on September 21, 1947, in Portland, Maine [10]. Researchers note that King's early years were marked by financial difficulties and instability in family life, which later reflected in his work [11]. In 1988, King wrote: "I have felt since childhood that life is unfair." My mother raised me alone; my father left us, and she had to work a lot and hard. We were poor, living paycheck to paycheck and knowing nothing about a society of equal opportunities and other nonsense <...> She never complained, but I was neither deaf nor blind. "Some of that feeling of injustice still remains and is reflected today in my books." [12]

Bender (2013) claims that "King's childhood experiences related to poverty and the absence of a father shaped his unique perspective on American society and human nature" [13].

King's literary abilities manifested early. As Rogers notes in his dissertation, "even in elementary school, King demonstrated an exceptional talent for storytelling, which caught the attention of his teachers" [14].

King developed a love for reading at a young age and became deeply passionate about it. His favorite books were "Frankenstein's Castle" and "R.K. Comics," which published stories about various monsters, such as "Tales from the Crypt," "Tomb of Horrors," "Crypt of Terror," and "Madness." King also read "Spider-Man," "Superman," and "The Hulk." [15]. It seems like you've entered a reference or a citation. Could you please provide more context or text for translation? Comic book authors often used the address "Dear Reader," and later, King employed the greeting "Constant Reader" in his works.

This observation is also confirmed by King himself in his memoir "On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft." [16].

The writer's bestseller in childhood was a story based on the work of Edgar Allan Poe, which was adapted into the film "The Pit and the Pendulum" and printed in 40 copies.

In 1959, Stephen King and his brother David King published their local newspaper called "Dave's Rag," where David was responsible for local news, while Stephen wrote reviews of his favorite TV shows and movies, as well as short stories. It seems you've entered a reference or citation number. Could you please provide more context or text for translation? It is important to note that Howard Phillips Lovecraft had a significant influence on King, which led him to write in a new genre. The writer repeatedly claimed that reading Lovecraft's works about sinister stories reminded him of his childhood and felt like he was "coming home." [17].

When Stephen King entered college, he simultaneously worked at the "Worumbo" textile mill. In 1960, he published several short stories with his friend Chris Chesley in a homemade collection titled "People, Places and Things." In 1970, King graduated from university with a bachelor's degree and was deemed unfit for military service. At first, the family faced financial difficulties; they lived on King's salary from the laundry, his wife's student loan, and the occasional fees King received for publishing short stories in magazines. At that time, they had a son and a daughter.

1971 was very important as King married to Tabitha Spruce. In the fall of that same year, he began working as an English teacher at a school in the town of Hampden, Maine. His wife found a draft of the novel "Carrie" in the trash can, which King considered a failure, and insisted that he finish it. On December 18, 1973, Stephen King's mother, Ruth King, passed away in the town of Mexico, at his brother Dave's house. In 1974, the publishing house "Doubleday" released the novel "Carrie," for which King received an advance of \$2,500. Then the publishing house sold the rights to "Carrie" to NAL for \$400,000, half of which went to King, allowing him to leave his job at the school. In the fall of 1974, King moved to Boulder, Colorado, where he lived for a year, and during that time he wrote the novel "The Shining."

Throughout several years of his career, King used the pseudonym Richard Bachman, under which he published seven novels. The main reason for Bachman's invention was the publisher King's concern that he did not want him to saturate the market. King also felt the need to unleash his literary demons and, under this pseudonym, was able to publish works that differed from the supernatural horror prose that had become his trademark.

In 1977, King published his early novel "Rage" under the pseudonym Richard Bachman. In "Rage" (1977), a teenager takes his entire class hostage. The book was withdrawn from sale after real school shooting incidents occurred in Kansas, where a minor perpetrator who killed three of his classmates was found to have a copy of this book. Following this, the author himself decided to withdraw the book from sale [18].

**Conclusion.** This article mainly focuses on the Stephen King's unique approach to the horror genre which has

made him one of the most influential writers in contemporary literature, transcending the boundaries of traditional horror. His personal experiences, particularly his challenging upbringing and encounters with societal injustices, deeply inform his storytelling, allowing him to craft narratives that resonate on both emotional and intellectual levels.

King's distinctive writing style is marked by a combination of realistic settings, complex characters, and supernatural elements, creating a world where the mundane can quickly turn menacing. This psychological depth invites readers to confront their own fears, making the horror more personal and impactful.

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