

THE SYSTEM OF PERSONAGES IN W.S. MAUGHAM'S WORKS

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Abstract. The article is dedicated to the study of the system of personages in W.S. Maugham's works. The personages in W.S. Maugham's works serve as profound reflections of the intricacies of human nature and the societal frameworks that shape individual identities. Maugham explores themes of alienation, desire, and moral conflict through richly developed characters who navigate the complexities of their lives in varying social contexts. His protagonists often experience existential struggles, revealing their vulnerabilities and inner conflicts while challenging societal norms.

Keywords: complexity, isolation, emotions, human nature, cynicism, relationship.

Аннотация. Статья посвящена исследованию системы персонажей в произведениях У.С. Моэма. Персоналии в произведениях У.С. Моэма служат глубоким отражением тонкостей человеческой природы и общественных рамок, формирующих индивидуальную идентичность. Моэм исследует темы отчуждения, желания и моральных конфликтов посредством тщательно продуманных персонажей, которые преодолевают сложности своей жизни в различных социальных контекстах. Его герои часто переживают жизненную борьбу, обнажая свои уязвимые места и внутренние конфликты, бросая вызов общественным нормам.

Ключевые слова: сложность, изоляция, эмоции, человеческая сущность, цинизм, взаимоотношения

Artistic world is first of all figurative world. An artistic work is a complex unified image, and each of its element is a relatively independent, unique particle of the whole, interacting with it and with all the other particles. Everything and everyone in the in the poetic world is imbued with imagery, even if the text does not contain a single epithet, simile or metaphor. The author's position is one of the means of characterizing the literary hero. It is important to note that the author's characterization is the most significant technique of illuminating the character from the outside. It determines the aesthetic values and ideals set by the author in the work[1,60].

W.S. Maugham is one of the most prominent writer of the twentieth century, whose works are imbued with profound psychological observations and social commentary. Maugham's complex and multi-layered characters become a central part of his stories, reflecting the diversity of human nature and inner conflicts. These characters do not simply act within the plot; they are archetypes that explore themes such as individualism, social norms, and the search for meaning in life. In his novels and short stories, Maugham masterfully creates images that give readers a glimpse into the intricacies of the human experience. In this article, we will examine the character system in the work of W. S. Maugham, highlighting the main themes, conflicts, and character traits that make them so memorable and relevant even today. W.S. Maugham's characters often reflect the complexities of human nature and social dynamics. His protagonists frequently face moral dilemmas and existential questions, navigating through themes of desire, betrayal, and the search for meaning. Inevitable on earth S. Maugham believes that evil, the source of which - selfishness, vanity, stupidity, hypocrisy - hidden in the very human nature in human nature itself. Hence the all-encompassing pessimism of the writer and his perception of life as an endless tragedy - such an image of the world was partly assimilated by S. Maugham from the philosophy of A. Schopenhauer[5,56].

W. S. Maugham's characters are close to real people - they are ambitious, vulnerable and diverse. One of the key themes of his works is the collision of human desires with cruel real conditions. Maugham often uses archetypes such as the artist, the truth seeker, or the victim of circumstance. For example, in the novel *Point of View*, the protagonist is a young man who seeks to find his place in the world by confronting societal prejudices. W. S. Maugham's female

characters occupy a significant place in his work and are characterized by brightness and multilayeredness. He creates images that go beyond the traditional stereotypes. The images he created and the events he wrote are convincing and real. He used the element of suddenness and unpredictability to show how unstable socio-political values and psychological frameworks are

In Maugham's works, women are often portrayed as strong, independent individuals. The heroines show courage and determination, allowing themselves to follow their desires despite societal restrictions. However, many of his female characters also find themselves victims of circumstance. "The Moon and Six Pens" presents the image of a woman striving for freedom but facing the pressures and expectations of society, which demonstrates inner conflict and vulnerability. Maugham goes deeply into the psychology of his heroines, showing their fears, doubts and aspirations. The female characters are not static - they develop, undergo changes and discover new facets of their character. In the novel by W. S. Maugham's *The Moon and Six Pens* presents a deep and complex psychology of female characters, especially the heroines Amy Strickland and Blanche Strav. Under his writing, Maugham most enjoys creating dissolute women. This is also the reason why infidelity and betrayed love are frequent themes in his writing. He has a set pattern when it comes to love stories: masculine characters genuinely adore female characters. But female characters lack morality and conduct relationships with other men for a variety of reasons, as well as betraying marriages or love. Tragedies transpire when the affairs are made public. Maugham tends to attribute a lot of catastrophes to women. He believes that sexual desire is what drives men insane and blind, and that women are the source of immorality. To get what they want, they exploit unethical sexual interactions, which results in disastrous love and marriages.

The system of characters in Maugham's work not only complements the plot, but also deepens the reader's perception of human nature and social orders. The minor characters play an important role in Maugham's works. They serve as a kind of mirror for the main characters, most often emphasizing their internal states and social conflicts. For example, in "The Moon and the Penny", Charles Change's entourage helps to reveal his desire for freedom and the loss of his usual way of life. Maugham's character system is not limited to individual characteristics; it is dictated by the social and cultural contexts of his time[2,55]. In the novel "The Theater," W.S. Maugham tells us about the life of a famous actress Julia Lambert. She is delicate, brilliant, intelligent actress who celebrates her mid-life crisis by having an affair with a handsome young lady. In the novel "Theater," the author's attention is focused on the feelings, experiences, problems, creativity of the protagonist. Everything that happens conceptualized by the author of the heroine. Her personality is seen behind every word of the author, and, at the same time, in every heroine's lines, we hear the author's voice. This special discursiveness together with the intertextuality of the work and the author's highly artistic literary speech of the author, which embodies a sample of English culture. The characters interact with each other, and their relationships become the key to understanding the main themes of the works, such as the search for happiness, the struggle against social norms, and the search for true identity. The interactions between major and minor characters emphasize the major themes of Maugham's works, such as the struggle for individuality and social traditions. This interconnectedness makes his characters multi-layered and alive. Maugham's characters play out the social and cultural issues of their time [1,68]. And their relationships become key to understanding themes such as happiness, individuality, and social norms.

The system of characters in the works of W. S. Maugham is not only a means of narration, but also a deep research platform on which the author analyzes human nature, social foundations and mysticism of life.

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