

CRITICAL REALISM IN ENGLISH LITERATURE OF THE XIX.

To'raqulova Dinora

Toshkent viloyati Chirchiq davlat pedagogika universiteti Turizm fakulteti xorijiy til va adabiyoti ingliz tili yo'nalishi 2-bosqich talabasi

Abstract: *Critical realism in English literature of the 19th century was a literary movement that emerged as a response to the romanticism of the preceding era. It sought to portray the realities of everyday life with a focus on social issues, class struggles, and moral dilemmas. This essay will explore the key characteristics of critical realism in English literature of the 19th century, with a specific focus on the works of important writers such as Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and Thomas Hardy.*

Critical realism was marked by a rejection of the idealistic and escapist tendencies of romanticism, and instead aimed to depict society as it truly was, with all its flaws and complexities. Writers of this era sought to examine the social and economic inequalities of the time, highlighting the struggles of the working class, the power dynamics between different social classes, and the impact of industrialization on human lives.

One of the defining features of critical realism was its emphasis on detailed and accurate representation of society, often through vivid descriptions of urban landscapes, industrial settings, and the lives of ordinary people. Writers such as Charles Dickens, known for works like "Oliver Twist" and "Great Expectations," used their novels to shed light on the harsh realities of life for the poor and marginalized in Victorian England.

Key words: *Critical realism, English literature, 19th century, romanticism, social issues, class struggles, moral dilemmas, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Thomas Hardy, society, working class, industrialization, urban landscapes, social injustice, ethics, moral dilemmas, Victorian England, ordinary people*

Realism is a way of seeing, accepting and dealing with situations as they really are without being influenced by emotions or hopes. Realism is a style in art or literature that shows things and people as they are in real life. (Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary, 1998) As a literary movement, realism began in France in the 1850s and it was a reaction against Romanticism which was a style and movement in art, music and literature in the late XVIII century and early XIX century, in which strong feelings, imagination and a return to nature were more important than reason, order and intellectual ideas (Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary, 1998). One term that is often used in connection with realism is slice of life. That is to say, a realistic writer takes a slice of the real world and examines it in almost the same manner as a

scientist examines a leaf under the microscope. In England, this movement happened at the same time with the "Victorian Age", when Queen Victoria ruled the country (1837-1901) and the British Empire reached its height and also the period of the Industrial Revolution. The United Kingdom spread its territory towards America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania and got the first economic and political world power. A lot of critics prefer to speak about the "Victorian Age", since many of the well-known English novelists of the period are not realistic in the same style as their French or Russian colleagues. However, a number of realistic novels are exactly the most essential literary form of the period, excellent novels were read by a large number of educated middle class that were economically developed. The 19th century had specific characters because it was an age of progress: railways and ships were constructed, great scientific discoveries were done, education spread more widely; but simultaneously, it was a period of great social unrest, as there existed too much poverty, too much unfairness. As scientific inventions grew, it mechanized industry and raised wealth, yet this rise only made rich the few at the cost of the many. Dirty factories, long working hours, children's work, exploitation, low income, slums and frequent unemployment – these were the living conditions of the workers in the developing industries of England, which were the most affluent country in the world towards the middle of the 19th century. By 1830s English capitalism had entered a new development stage. England had become an industrial capitalistic country. The Industrial Revolution gathered power as the XIX century developed, and great alterations in hand- looms made way, to factory towns, railroads, and steamships. The number of people living in Manchester, Birmingham and other industrial centers was increasing sharply as factory workers' number grew, whereas poor farmers' number declined and a lot of people abandoned their villages. Main social classes in England were no longer the peasants and the landlords but in fact, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.

Another important aspect of critical realism was its focus on moral and ethical dilemmas, as well as its critique of social injustice and hypocrisy. Authors like George Eliot, who wrote novels such as "Middlemarch" and "Silas Marner," explored complex ethical questions and presented nuanced portrayals of human behavior and relationships.

Thomas Hardy, a later writer associated with the critical realist tradition, depicted the harsh realities of rural life in Victorian England in works like "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" and "Far from the Madding Crowd." Hardy's novels often dealt with themes of fate, determinism, and the destructive forces of society on individuals.

Critical realism in English literature of the 19th century was a significant literary movement that sought to provide a truthful and socially-conscious

representation of the complexities of society. Writers of this era used their works to challenge prevailing beliefs and expose the injustices and struggles of their time, leaving a lasting impact on the development of English literature.

Critical realism in English literature of the 19th century refers to a literary movement that aimed to accurately represent the social reality of the time while also addressing moral and ethical dilemmas faced by individuals and society as a whole. The critical realist writers of this period sought to delve deep into the complexities of human behavior and relationships, often exploring themes such as class struggles, social inequalities, and the impact of industrialization and urbanization on society.

Prominent authors associated with critical realism in 19th-century English literature include Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and Thomas Hardy. Their works often depicted the lives of ordinary people, particularly those in the working class, and highlighted the harsh realities of Victorian England.

These authors used their storytelling to shed light on social injustices, expose societal flaws, and challenge prevalent beliefs and practices. Through their nuanced portrayals of characters and settings, they explored the impact of society on individual lives and the ways in which fate, determinism, and societal structures influenced human behavior.

The critical realist movement in 19th-century English literature provided a platform for writers to engage with moral, ethical, and social issues of their time, ultimately contributing to a deeper understanding of the complexities of human existence and society.

Another significant aspect of critical realism in 19th-century English literature was its focus on the portrayal of psychological depth and complexity in characters. Writers of this movement sought to create fully developed characters with nuanced motivations, inner conflicts, and moral dilemmas. By delving into the inner lives of their characters, these authors presented a more nuanced and realistic portrayal of human nature, challenging simplistic and idealized representations prevalent in earlier literary works.

In addition, critical realist writers often incorporated elements of social commentary and critique in their works, using the medium of fiction to raise awareness about social issues and advocate for social reform. They sought to expose the injustices and inequalities present in Victorian society, such as poverty, exploitation, and inequitable access to education and healthcare. Through their narratives, these authors aimed to provoke empathy, understanding, and a call to action among their readers.

Critical realism in 19th-century English literature represented a departure from the more idealized and romanticized literary traditions of the past, offering a more insightful and critical examination of the realities of the time. The movement's

emphasis on authenticity, social critique, and psychological depth continues to influence literature and society to this day.

The greatest novelists of the age are Charles Dickens, William Makepeace Thackeray, Charlotte Bronte, Elizabeth Gaskell. However, Critical Realism as a trend in American literature fully developed after the Civil War. But before the Civil War writers turned their thought to the material environment surrounded them. The sudden and deep changes in the country, human relations' new type forced them to see man as a product of his own environment, to face actual facts and realities. Until that time writers build their stories around ideal individuals by which they represented their own personal emotions and reactions. New generation writers no longer satisfied with this; they understood that the people must be mirrored as a whole, the life of the individual connected with life of other human beings. The highly critical realistic literature that came into being differed greatly from that of the previous generation represented by Irving, Cooper and Longfellow. Mark Twain in his "Gilded Age" wrote: "The eight years in America from 1860 to 1868 uprooted institutions that were centuries old, changed the politics of a people, transformed the social life of half the country and wrought so profoundly upon the entire national character that the influence cannot be measured."

Critical realism in English literature of the 19th century refers to a literary movement that emerged during the Victorian era. It aimed to provide a truthful and detailed representation of society, focusing on the harsh realities of life for the working class and the struggles of everyday people.

Authors such as Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and Thomas Hardy are considered key figures of critical realism in English literature. Their works often depicted social issues such as poverty, class struggle, and industrialization, presenting a stark contrast to the romanticized and idealized portrayals of earlier literature.

Through their writing, these authors sought to expose the injustices and inequalities of the time, bringing attention to the plight of the less privileged and advocating for social reform. Critical realism in English literature of the 19th century remains an important literary movement that continues to influence modern literature and social discourse.

REFERENCES:

- 1- History of English Literature. Vol.1. Iss.2. 1945.
- 2- Михальская Н.П., Аникин Г.В. История английской литературы. Учебник для гуманитарных факультетов вузов. – М.: Академия, 2012. – 516 с.

3- Михальская, Н. П. История английской литературы:учеб. Для вузов/Н.П.Михальская. – 3-е изд. – М. : Академия, 2019. – 480 с.

4 - Гиленсон, Б.А. История литературы США : учеб. пособие для студентовфилол. фак. ун-тов и высш. пед. учеб. заведений. – М. : Академия, 2019. – 703 с.

5-История литературы США / гл. ред. Я. Н. Засурский. – М. : ИМЛИ РАН :Наследие, 1997–.

6-Луков, Вл.А. История литературы : зарубежная литература от истоков до наших дней : учеб. пособие для вузов. – 7-е изд. – М. Академия, 2019. – 511с.

7-Проскурнин,Б.М. История зарубежной литературы XIX века :западноевропейская реалистическая проза : учеб пособие для вузов / Б.М.Проскурнин, Р. Ф. Яшенькина. – 5-е изд. – М. : Флинта : Наука, 2018. – 413 с.

8-Путеводитель по английской литературе : пер. с англ. / под ред. М.Дрэббл,Дж.Стрингер. – М. : Радуга, 2018. – 928с.