

MARK TWAIN A FOUNDER OF A HUMOROUS STORY GENRE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE.

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Abstract:*In American literature, Mark Twain is considered a pioneer in the development of the humorous story genre. Through his iconic works such as "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," Twain introduced a unique blend of wit, satire, and social commentary that continues to influence contemporary authors. This abstract will explore Twain's contribution to the humorous story genre, examining his distinctive writing style, memorable characters, and lasting impact on American literature. By delving into Twain's work, we can gain a deeper understanding of his enduring legacy as a master storyteller and humorist.*

In addition to his humorous stories, Mark Twain also wrote essays, speeches, travel narratives, and other works that showcased his sharp wit and keen observation of human nature. Twain's humor was often used as a tool to critique societal norms, challenge authority, and highlight the absurdities of everyday life. His use of dialect, colloquial language, and exaggerated characters added depth and complexity to his narratives, making them both entertaining and thought-provoking.

Twain's influence on American literature can be seen in the works of later humorists such as Will Rogers, P.G. Wodehouse, and David Sedaris, who have drawn inspiration from his satirical style and use of humor to explore deeper themes. Twain's enduring popularity and relevance in contemporary culture speak to his timeless appeal and ability to connect with audiences of all ages.

Key words: *Mark Twain, American literature, humorist, satire, humor, storytelling, social commentary, American culture, wit, satire, comedy, influence, timeless, legacy*

Mark Twain's use of humor was often characterized by his sharp wit, clever wordplay, and satirical observations about society. He was known for his ability to poke fun at the absurdities of human nature and to tackle serious issues with a humorous touch. Twain's distinctive writing style and unique perspective set him apart as a trailblazer in the genre of American humor writing.

Twain's humor was not only entertaining, but also served as a vehicle for social critique and commentary. Through his humorous stories, Twain addressed topics

such as race, politics, and class divisions, shedding light on the injustices and hypocrisies of his time. His ability to bring humor to serious subjects helped to engage readers and encourage them to think critically about the world around them.

Mark Twain's contributions to the genre of humorous storytelling have had a lasting impact on American literature and culture. His work continues to be celebrated for its wit, insight, and enduring relevance, cementing Twain's legacy as a master of humor and storytelling.

In addition to his humor writing, Mark Twain was also a prolific author in other genres, including fiction, non-fiction, and travel writing. Some of his most famous works include "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," and "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

Twain's novels often reflected his own experiences growing up in the American South and his observations of social issues of the time. "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," in particular, is considered a classic of American literature and a seminal work in the genre of the Great American Novel. The novel explores themes of race, freedom, and morality, and has sparked much debate and discussion over its portrayal of race relations.

Twain was also known for his travel writing, including "The Innocents Abroad," a humorous account of his journey through Europe and the Holy Land. In his travel writing, Twain blended his signature humor with keen observations of different cultures and customs, providing readers with an entertaining and insightful perspective on the world.

Mark Twain's diverse body of work showcases his versatility as a writer and his ability to tackle a wide range of subjects with intelligence, wit, and creativity. His influence on American literature and culture continues to be felt to this day, solidifying his reputation as one of the greatest literary figures in history.

Mark Twain, in the early stages of his career, understood what the official concept of American civilization was, by creating various images of the "naive man", through his humor, its despotic nature, and the destruction of the most sensitive moral values of human dignity. It is known from history that in the seventies of the XIX century, American business life began to revive. Lies, deceptions, and the temptation to trade seemed to pervade all spheres of business life. Joint-stock companies, banking structures, trading companies are growing like mushrooms, they were deceiving people, national treasures were being plundered. It was during this period that there were opportunities for success in America, the real result of which — wealth, was of great importance as a moral criterion. It seemed natural for Mark Twain to turn to genres larger than the story genre novels and short stories. However, by this time the writer's reputation as a humorist had already been established. Based on our analysis, we can say that his first successes were mainly due to his journalistic

articles and short stories. The writer himself said that “in literature, it is impossible to remain only a humorist ...”. Mark Twain believed that a comic work could be artistically perfect if it contained an image of the world as a whole and expressed certain views on life. Mark Twain was able to fulfill this condition in the first stage. His pen was the first to create the features of folk culture of laughter with burlesque, cartoon, joke, joke, grotesque, nonsense, anecdote, changing and meaningful movements of metaphors, and it was not only a literary event. It laid the foundation of realism poetics. The young Mark’s “anti-literary” revolt, his “disrespect” to influential literary figures, and the destruction of all rules and frameworks marked the first stage of his career with the creation of new works of art, which provoked deadly and ridiculous laughter against European civilization. As a result, the writer gained a wide readership and achieved his goal with his works based on the understanding of the world and the formation of new views on life. In Mark Twain’s early stories (The Jumping Frog From Calaveras County (1865), Journalism in Tennessee, and The Abduction of the White Elephant), Mark Twain created life boards; the truth of the common man, as a humanist writer, determined the principles of his later artistic creation. As a journalist and publicist, Mark was not different from the humorist Mark; When you read his first stories, you are convinced of that. These stories had both essay and sketch features, as well as fiction. In his humorous stories, Mark Twain not only embodied the folklore style of the Western region, but also brought a cheerful, noisy, and boisterous atmosphere of life. Thus, by creating his first masterpieces, the writer laid the foundation for future literary reforms. In addition to bringing Western folklore to American literature, Mark Twain also brought living life energy, a colorless, pure, rough, delicate, ordinary, and simple life. A life that he had the right to live, a life that he could fight against those who hindered him, he was able to reject the “bone” stuck in his throat. The writer saw the pillar of his creative program in folklore; his narrative style resonated with the newspaper style tradition of southwestern humor. These traditions can be considered the first sources of American realism. At that time, the stories of many talented American humorists (Longstreet, Helbert Harris, Hooper, etc.) were critical of the realities of life. They had sharp and sharp views, independent judgments, and bold ideas that could attract the attention of readers at a time when romanticism was shining as the dominant trend. It was these humorists who, for the first time in the history of American literature, brought to national art images of shameless politicians, shameless and thieving businessmen, and shameless swindlers. It was in their work that Mark Twain found rich material for his own creative laboratory. Many aspects of the writer’s artistic method — minimum description and abstract judgment, maximum movement, dynamism in narration, the accuracy of language, use of dialect, and intonation of oral speech — have their origins in folklore humor of the 30s and 70s. Mark Twain also skillfully used this rich realist fund; He revived the tradition of the American short story genre, adding special shades and colors to it with household sketches.

Twain's legacy also extends beyond his writing, as he was an outspoken critic of social injustice and a supporter of various social causes, including abolitionism and women's rights. He used his platform as a writer and public figure to advocate for equality and justice, often using satire and humor to shed light on societal issues.

In addition to his literary and social contributions, Twain was also a successful lecturer and entrepreneur. He embarked on speaking tours both in the United States and abroad, entertaining audiences with his witty lectures and readings of his works. He also invested in various business ventures, including the Paige Compositor, a typesetting machine that ultimately failed but reflected Twain's entrepreneurial spirit and innovation.

Mark Twain's impact on American literature and culture is immeasurable, and his works continue to be studied, celebrated, and enjoyed by readers around the world. His unique voice, sharp wit, and insightful commentary on the human condition ensure that his legacy will endure for generations to come.

In his later years, Twain faced personal tragedies, including the deaths of his wife Olivia and two of his daughters. These losses deeply affected him and influenced his writing in his later works, which often reflected themes of loss, grief, and mortality.

Despite these personal challenges, Twain continued to write and publish prolifically until his death in 1910. Some of his later works include "The Mysterious Stranger," "What Is Man?," and "The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson." These works showcase Twain's continued exploration of philosophical and moral questions, as well as his deepening cynicism and pessimism about human nature.

In the years following his death, Twain's reputation and influence only continued to grow. He is now considered one of the greatest American writers of all time, and his works are studied and celebrated for their wit, social commentary, and timeless relevance. Twain's legacy as a literary icon and cultural figure remains strong today, ensuring that his impact on literature and society will endure for years to come.

Twain's influence can be seen in a wide range of literature, from the Southern Gothic tradition to contemporary American fiction. His works continue to be studied in schools and universities around the world, with "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" often considered a seminal work in American literature.

In addition to his literary achievements, Twain was also a prominent social critic and activist. He spoke out against racism, imperialism, and injustice, and used his platform to advocate for social change. Throughout his life, Twain was involved in various causes, including the abolition of slavery, women's suffrage, and the anti-imperialist movement.

Twain's legacy extends beyond his writing and activism, as he also made a significant impact on American culture and language. Many of his phrases and sayings, such as "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated" and "It's better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt," have become part of the American lexicon.

Mark Twain's enduring legacy as a writer, social critic, and cultural icon has solidified his place in American literary history. His works continue to be read, studied, and enjoyed by readers of all ages, and his influence on literature and society remains as strong as ever.

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