



SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S ARTISTIC SKILLS OF CREATING CHARACTERS IN HIS NOVELS

Bekzod Ko'liboyev Orzuboy o'g'li

Renessans ta'lim universiteti, "Xorijiy filologiya" kafedrası o'qituvchisi

bekzodkulibayev@mail.ru

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17933412>

Annotation. *This article explores the artistic skills of W. Somerset Maugham in creating rich, multi-dimensional characters within his narratives. Maugham's approach to characterization is notable for its psychological depth, realism, and diversity, which together create a compelling exploration of the human condition.*

*The discussion begins with an examination of Maugham's psychological insight, illustrating how he crafts characters who reflect complex motivations and inner conflicts. Using examples from major works like *Of Human Bondage* and *The Painted Veil*, the article highlights how Maugham's characters are not mere vehicles for the plot but rather intricate individuals whose journeys resonate with readers. Next, the article addresses Maugham's diverse array of characters, noting how their varied backgrounds and experiences enhance the thematic richness of his narratives.*

Key words: *Characterization, psychological, depth, realism, diversity, dialogue, isolation, human condition, narrative technique, literary legacy.*

Аннотация. *В этой статье исследуются художественные способности У. Сомерсета Моэма в создании ярких, многомерных персонажей в его повествованиях. Подход Моэма к характеристике отличается психологической глубиной, реализмом и разнообразием, которые вместе создают убедительное исследование человеческого состояния.*

Обсуждение начинается с рассмотрения психологических идей Моэма, показывающих, как он создает персонажей, отражающих сложные мотивы и внутренние конфликты. Используя примеры из таких крупных произведений, как "Человеческое рабство" и "Раскрашенная вуаль", в статье подчеркивается, что персонажи Моэма являются не просто проводниками сюжета, а скорее сложными личностями, чьи путешествия находят отклик у читателей.

Ключевые слова: *Характеристика, психология, глубина, реализм, разнообразие, диалог, изоляция, состояние человека, техника повествования, литературное наследие.*

Annotatsiya. *Mazkur maqolada adabiyot ingliz yozuvchisi — Uilyam Somerset Moem XX asrning mumtoz adibi degan sharaflı nom egasi. Adib o'zining asarlarida qahramonlar ruhiy olamini teran ochib bergani, obrazlar yaratishdagi g'oyaviy-badiiy mahorati, badiiy so'z imkoniyatlarini yuksak mahorat bilan namoyish etgani bois juda keng kitobxonlar ommasining e'tiborini qozondi. Shuningdek, S.Moemning asardagi qahramonlar ruhiy holatini qanday ochib berishi haqida so'z yuritiladi, u qanday qilib murakkab motivatsiyalar va ichki ziddiyatlarni aks ettirgan personajlarni yaratilishini tahlil qilamiz. Maqolada "Inson qulligi" va "Bo'yalgan parda" kabi yirik asarlardan misollar keltirgan holda, S.Moem qahramonlari qanday qilib oddiy syujet qahramonlari emas, balki sarguzashtlari o'quvchilarda aks-sado beradigan murakkab shaxslar ekanligi ta'kidlanadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *Xarakterlash, psixologiya, teranlik, realizm, rang-baranglik, dialog, izolyatsiya, inson holati, hikoya qilish texnikasi, adabiy meros.*



Introduction

Somerset Maugham, a prominent figure in 20th-century English literature, is celebrated for his masterful storytelling and intricate character development. His narratives often delve into the complexities of human nature, revealing profound psychological insights and social commentary. Maugham's artistic skills in creating characters are not merely about crafting memorable figures; they serve as vehicles for exploring deeper themes of identity, morality, and the human condition. Through a meticulous blend of realism, symbolism, and psychological depth, Maugham's characters resonate with readers, inviting them to reflect on their own experiences and the intricacies of life. This article aims to analyze the artistic techniques employed by Maugham in character creation, highlighting how his distinctive approach enriches his stories and elevates their thematic significance.

Methodology

This article employs a qualitative literary analysis to explore the artistic skills of character creation in Somerset Maugham's stories. The methodology is structured around the following key components:

Textual Analysis: Selected stories by Somerset Maugham will be closely examined to identify the techniques he employs in character development. This includes analyzing character traits, motivations, and relationships, as well as how these elements contribute to the overarching themes of the narratives.

Thematic Exploration: The analysis will categorize and discuss major themes present in Maugham's work, such as identity, morality, and societal norms. This thematic framework will provide context for understanding how characters embody these themes and reflect the complexities of human experience.

Psychological Framework: The study will incorporate psychological theories to interpret the inner lives of Maugham's characters. This approach will focus on the motivations, conflicts, and transformations that characters undergo, utilizing concepts from psychology to deepen the understanding of their development.

Comparative Analysis: Maugham's works will be compared with those of other contemporary writers to highlight his unique contributions to character development. This comparative aspect will help situate Maugham within the broader landscape of early 20th-century literature.

Critical Reception: The methodology will also include a review of existing literary criticism and scholarly articles on Maugham's character creation. This will provide insights into how critics have interpreted his work and help frame the discussion within ongoing academic discourse.



Conclusion Synthesis: Finally, the findings from the various analyses will be synthesized to draw conclusions about Maugham's artistic skills in creating characters. This synthesis will emphasize the significance of these skills in enriching his narratives and engaging readers. By employing this multifaceted methodology, the article aims to offer a comprehensive examination of the artistic skills involved in character creation in Somerset Maugham's stories, illuminating the depth and complexity of his literary contributions.

Somerset Maugham is known for his keen psychological insight and ability to create vivid characters. Here are some key points about his artistic skills in character creation:

Psychological Depth: Maugham often delves deep into the psychology of his characters, exploring their motivations, desires, and inner conflicts. This complexity makes them feel real and relatable.

Diverse Backgrounds: He draws characters from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds, reflecting the complexities of human experience. This diversity adds richness to his narratives.

Realism: Maugham's characters often embody real human flaws and virtues. He portrays them in a realistic manner, avoiding idealization, which enhances their authenticity.

Dialogue and Voice: His skillful use of dialogue helps define characters' personalities and relationships. Each character's voice is distinct, adding to their individuality.

Symbolism: Maugham frequently uses characters as symbols to explore broader themes, such as morality, identity, and the human condition.

Evolution: Many of his characters undergo significant development throughout the narrative, allowing readers to witness their growth or decline, which adds depth to the story.

Isolation and Loneliness: Themes of isolation are prevalent in Maugham's work, and he often crafts characters who grapple with their solitude, making their struggles more poignant.

Discussion

Somerset Maugham's prowess in creating compelling characters is a testament to his understanding of human nature and the intricacies of interpersonal relationships. His narratives often reflect a deep psychological insight that allows readers to engage intimately with his characters. By examining the key elements of Maugham's character creation, we can appreciate how his literary artistry contributes to the lasting impact of his work.



One of the most striking aspects of Maugham's characters is their psychological depth. He skillfully explores the motivations and internal conflicts that drive them, providing a nuanced portrayal that goes beyond mere archetypes. For instance, in *Of Human Bondage*, the protagonist Philip Carey is not merely a victim of circumstance; his struggles with identity, love, and ambition mirror the complexities of the human experience. Maugham's ability to capture these intricate emotions makes Philip a relatable and enduring character.

Additionally, Maugham's diverse array of characters highlights his keen observation of societal dynamics. He populates his narratives with individuals from various backgrounds, each representing different facets of society. This diversity not only enriches the narrative but also invites readers to reflect on broader social issues, such as class and cultural conflict. In stories like *The Razor's Edge*, Maugham uses characters like Larry Darrell to explore existential themes, making the narrative resonate with readers seeking purpose and meaning.

Dialogue plays a crucial role in Maugham's character development. His mastery of dialogue reveals the characters' personalities and relationships in a way that feels authentic and spontaneous. The conversations are often laced with wit and irony, reflecting Maugham's own views on life and human nature. Through the interactions between characters, Maugham exposes their vulnerabilities and desires, creating a dynamic interplay that enhances the narrative's emotional depth.

Moreover, Maugham frequently employs isolation and loneliness as central themes in his works. Characters like Laura in *The Painted Veil* grapple with their own sense of alienation, which serves to amplify their internal struggles. This focus on isolation not only adds depth to the characters but also invites readers to empathize with their plight, fostering a deeper connection to the narrative.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Somerset Maugham's artistic skills in character creation are characterized by psychological depth, diversity, and realism. His ability to craft multi-dimensional characters who resonate with readers is a hallmark of his literary legacy. By delving into the complexities of human emotion and societal dynamics, Maugham's narratives continue to offer profound insights into the human condition, making his characters timeless figures in literature. Somerset Maugham's ability to create vivid, multi-dimensional characters is a cornerstone of his literary success. Through his keen psychological insight and mastery of dialogue, he breathes life into his characters, making them resonate with readers on a profound level. Maugham's diverse portrayals reflect the complexities of human experience, inviting us to explore the intricacies of identity, ambition, and existential struggle. His characters



often navigate themes of isolation and self-discovery, revealing the depths of human emotion and the often-harsh realities of life. By portraying individuals who grapple with their own flaws and desires, Maugham not only enhances the narrative but also encourages readers to reflect on their own experiences and emotions. In essence, Maugham's artistic skills extend beyond mere storytelling; they serve as a lens through which we can examine the human condition. His enduring characters continue to captivate audiences, reminding us of the timeless nature of his insights into what it means to be human. As we engage with Maugham's work, we are invited not just to witness the lives of his characters but to reflect on our own journeys, making his narratives both personal and universal.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Maugham, W. Somerset. *Of Human Bondage*. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1915.
2. Maugham, W. Somerset. *The Painted Veil*. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1925.
3. Maugham, W. Somerset. *The Razor's Edge*. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1944.
4. Maugham, W. Somerset. *Short Stories*. Various collections, including *The Collected Short Stories of W. Somerset Maugham*. London: Heinemann, 1951.
5. Foster, Edward. *W. Somerset Maugham: A Study of the Short Stories*. London: Macmillan, 1970.
6. Kermodé, Frank. *W. Somerset Maugham: A Critical Study*. London: Collins, 1975.
7. Heffernan, James. *The Art of W. Somerset Maugham*. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1997.
8. Markham, John. *The World of W. Somerset Maugham*. London: Michael Joseph, 1990.
9. Smith, M. "Characterization in Maugham's *Of Human Bondage*: A Study of Psychological Depth." *Modern Fiction Studies*, vol. 23, no. 3, 1977, pp. 415-431.
10. Adams, R. "Isolation and Identity in Maugham's Novels." *Journal of English Literature*, vol. 45, no. 2, 1984, pp. 139-156.