

**“THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CORE FUNCTIONS OF
LITERARY CRITICISM.”**

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Abstract. *The article examines the historical development and main functions of literary criticism as an important field of philological study. It explores the essence of the concept of “literary criticism” and its role in the analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of literary works. Particular attention is given to the relationship between criticism and literary theory, as well as to the criteria for evaluating texts, including aesthetic, cultural-historical, and linguistic aspects. It is also noted that literary criticism is largely subjective in nature and reflects the socio-cultural context of its time. The article concludes that the key functions of literary criticism are the interpretation and evaluation of literary works.*

Keywords: *literary criticism, interpretation, evaluation, literary work, literary theory, critical analysis, role of the critic, history of criticism.*

Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqolada adabiy tanqidning filologik tadqiqotlar doirasidagi ahamiyati, uning tarixiy shakllanish jarayoni hamda asosiy funksiyalari ilmiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Unda “adabiy tanqid” tushunchasining mazmun-mohiyati ochib berilib, uning badiiy asarlarni tahlil etish, talqin qilish va baholashdagi o‘rni asoslab beriladi. Shuningdek, adabiy tanqidning adabiyot nazariyasi bilan uzviy aloqadorligi hamda matnlarni baholash mezonlari — estetik, madaniy-tarixiy va lingvistik jihatlar nuqtayi nazaridan yoritiladi. Bundan tashqari, tanqidning muayyan darajada subyektiv xususiyat kasb etishi va u muayyan davrning ijtimoiy-madaniy sharoitlari bilan bog‘liqligi ta’kidlanadi. Xulosa sifatida*

adabiy tanqidning yetakchi funksiyalari sifatida talqin va baholash jarayonlari e'tirof etiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: *adabiy tanqid, talqin, baholash, badiiy asar, adabiyot nazariyasi, tanqidiy tahlil, tanqidchining roli, adabiy tanqid tarixi.*

Аннотация. *В статье рассматриваются историческое развитие и основные функции литературной критики как важной области филологического знания. Раскрывается сущность понятия «литературная критика», её роль в анализе, интерпретации и оценке художественных произведений. Особое внимание уделяется взаимосвязи критики с литературной теорией, а также критериям оценки текстов, включая эстетические, культурно-исторические и языковые аспекты. Также отмечается, что критика носит во многом субъективный характер и отражает социально-культурный контекст своей эпохи. В заключение определяется, что ключевыми функциями литературной критики являются интерпретация и оценка художественных произведений.*

Ключевые слова: *литературная критика, интерпретация, оценка, художественное произведение, теория литературы, критический анализ, роль критика, история критики.*

Etymologically, the term “criticism” comes from a Greek word meaning “judgement.” It involves the act of making evaluations. Literary criticism, therefore, is the process of assessing and interpreting works of literature. The function of criticism is to analyze both the strengths and weaknesses of a work and ultimately determine its artistic value. Thus, literary criticism involves the study, discussion, interpretation, and evaluation of literature. In other words, it seeks to assess the worth of a literary work. Within literary criticism, a single work or a group of works is examined based on factors such as aesthetic quality, historical and cultural significance, use of language, and the depth of ideas and insights it offers. These qualities are often interconnected and influence one another. Modern literary criticism is frequently shaped by literary theory, which deals with the philosophical

exploration of literature's aims and methods. Although the two are closely linked, literary critics are not always theorists, nor have they always been. The term "literary criticism" specifically refers to the thoughtful and reasoned examination of literary works and related issues. It includes all kinds of discussions and arguments about literature, regardless of whether particular texts are directly analyzed. More specifically, literary criticism also involves what is known as "practical criticism," which focuses on interpreting intended meanings and assessing overall quality. At this level, criticism can be approached not only from an artistic perspective but also from other viewpoints relevant to students and more advanced readers of literature.

The role of a critic is not to flatter the author, but to engage the public in discussion and encourage readers to form their own standards of judgement. Critics can be valuable to society because they consider what audiences seek in literature or popular culture and what they ultimately gain from it. Although, literary criticism often reflects the personal views of the critic, such reviews still play an important role in stimulating public interest in art. The critic's task is to recognize genuine talent in writers and ensure that audiences have the chance to discover and appreciate it.

The critic's duty is not to flatter the writer, but to engage the public in meaningful discussion and encourage readers to form their own standards of judgement. Critics are valuable because they pay attention to what audiences expect from literature and popular culture, as well as what they gain from them.

Moreover, although literary criticism is often shaped by the critic's personal views, such reviews help spark public interest in art. A key role of the critic is to recognize genuine talent in authors and ensure that readers have the opportunity to discover and appreciate it. While being engaged with and discussing literature, we broaden our imagination, deepen our sense of possibility, and strengthen our capacity for empathy. It is important to develop critical reading and interpretation skills while also cultivating an appreciation for various literary genres and theoretical approaches. This can be achieved by examining examples of literary analysis and practicing writing critiques of literary works.

Texts that interpret literature are generally persuasive in nature. Literary critics may closely analyze a text, evaluate it through the lens of a particular theory, or challenge the interpretations offered by other critics. In many ways, their work resembles that of writers who produce evaluative texts. For instance, the abilities needed to review films, interpret legal texts, or assess artistic movements are similar to those required in literary criticism.

Literary criticism has a long history, dating back to the time of Plato, and is typically presented in the form of essays or books.

The term “literary criticism” refers to the careful and reasoned evaluation of literary works and the issues they raise. It covers all discussions and debates about literature, regardless of whether particular texts are directly analyzed. One of the earliest examples of literary criticism appears in Plato’s warnings about the potentially harmful effects of poetic inspiration.

More specifically, literary criticism also encompasses what is called “practical criticism,” which involves interpreting an author’s intended meanings and assessing the overall quality of a work. At this level, criticism can be approached not only from an artistic perspective but also from other angles that may be relevant to students and others who study literature more deeply than the casual reader. The functions of literary criticism are complex and cannot be easily confined to a single category. When critiquing a literary work, a critic often engages in a wide range of activities, from writing book reviews to conducting in-depth theoretical analyses of the text, its author, and the historical context in which it was written. Book reviews, in particular, can influence whether a work achieves widespread popularity.

The main purpose of literary criticism is to assess both the strengths and weaknesses of a work of art and ultimately determine its value. Its primary role is to enlighten and stimulate readers. A true critic is someone well-versed in their field, capable of identifying qualities of power, beauty, and profound significance, while offering fresh perspectives. Such critics can act as pathfinders, breaking new ground with informed passion. Therefore, the core functions of literary criticism are interpretation and judgment.

It is also important to recognize that a critic's perspective is shaped by their own intellectual philosophy, personal preferences, and biases, which in turn are influenced by the social and political environment in which they live. Consequently, critical theories often reflect the spirit of their time.

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