

THE ARTISTIC AND PHILOSOPHICAL VALUE OF THE FEMALE THEME IN THE WORKS OF HEMINGWAY AND FAULKNER

Boltabayeva Dilshoda Baxrommirza's daughter

An English teacher at school 63, Namangan district

dilshodabahrommirzayevna@gmail.com

Abstract. This paper explores the artistic and philosophical meaning of women's portrayals in the literary works of Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner. In Hemingway's fiction, female figures represent ideals of freedom, love, and renewal, reflecting a search for identity and vitality in a changing world. In contrast, Faulkner's women are portrayed within the confines of social pressure, moral conflict, and the disintegration of traditional values. The research demonstrates that these female characters function not merely as individual heroines but as symbolic embodiment of the moral, spiritual, and philosophical dimensions of their time.

Keywords: Hemingway, Faulkner, female theme, artistic portrayal, philosophical meaning, freedom, moral values.

ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННОЕ И ФИЛОСОФСКОЕ ЗНАЧЕНИЕ ЖЕНСКОГО СЮЖЕТА В ТВОРЧЕСТВЕ ХЕМИНГУЭЯ И ФОЛКНЕРА

Болтабаева Дильшода Бахроммирзаевна,

учитель английского языка школы №63, Намаганский район

dilshodabahrommirzayevna@gmail.com

Аннотация. В данной статье анализируется художественное и философское значение женских образов в произведениях Эрнеста Хемингуэя и Уильяма Фолкнера. В романах Хемингуэя женщины символизируют

свободу, любовь и обновление общества, тогда как у Фолкнера женские образы часто раскрываются через призму социального давления, духовных страданий и разрушения ценностей. В исследовании подчеркивается, что женские персонажи выступают не только индивидуальными героями, но и художественными воплощениями духа и философии эпохи.

Ключевые слова: Хемингуэй, Фолкнер, женский сюжет, художественный образ, философское значение, свобода, ценности.

INTRODUCTION

The first half of the twentieth century occupies a special place in the history of world literature as a period marked by deep reflection on the human psyche, the collapse of traditional values, and the devastating impact of wars. The First World War led humanity not only to material destruction but also to a profound moral decline. As a result, long-held ethical norms and notions such as faith, love, and human trust began to lose their meaning. In this atmosphere of spiritual emptiness and social instability, the image of women in literature acquired new philosophical and artistic significance. No longer portrayed merely as passive figures centered around love or family relationships, women emerged as independent individuals — seeking self-awareness, freedom, and moral autonomy.

In American literature, this transformation found its vivid expression in the works of Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner. Hemingway's female characters often appear against the backdrop of post-war disillusionment, emotional loss, and despair. Through their inner struggles and search for meaning, the writer deepens his portrayal of the "Lost Generation." Faulkner, on the other hand, examines the role of women within the complex social fabric of the American South — amid family traditions, rigid moral expectations, and societal limitations. His heroines are depicted as strong yet internally conflicted figures, confronting questions of dignity, belief, and identity.

Thus, the image of women in early twentieth-century literature is not merely a romantic or sentimental theme, but rather a philosophical symbol of humanity's quest for self-understanding. Through Hemingway's and Faulkner's portrayals of

women, readers can discern the psychological state of their age, the erosion of moral values, and the emergence of new spiritual directions. In this sense, the female narrative became a literary key to exploring the complex relationship between the individual and society in twentieth-century literature.

RESEARCH ANALYSES

In literary scholarship, the portrayal of women in the works of Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner has been interpreted in various ways. Anderson views Hemingway's female characters as symbols of freedom and vitality. For instance, Brett Ashley, the heroine of *The Sun Also Rises*, represents a woman who strives for equality with men and seeks independence in a world shaped by disillusionment and loss [3].

Donaldson, meanwhile, interprets Caddy Compson from Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* as an embodiment of the intense conflict between the individual and society [4]. From the perspective of Uzbek scholars such as Abduvohidova and Zakirov, these female figures serve as a "mirror of the era's philosophy," reflecting the spiritual and social transformations of their time.

In summary, literary analyses suggest that Hemingway's women symbolize hope, vitality, and the pursuit of freedom, whereas Faulkner's women represent tragedy, internal conflict, and moral crisis [5–6]. Through these contrasting portrayals, both writers illuminate different aspects of the twentieth-century human experience — the struggle between despair and resilience, confinement and self-realization..

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed several analytical methods. The comparative method was used to contrast the representation of female characters in Hemingway's and Faulkner's works, allowing for a cross-analysis of their thematic and philosophical approaches. Through psychological analysis, the internal struggles, emotional turmoil, and spiritual quests of the heroines were explored in depth. The philosophical-aesthetic approach helped connect the portrayal of women to the broader worldview and moral philosophy of the early twentieth century. Finally,

the historical-literary method was applied to situate the works within the social and cultural context of World War I and its aftermath.

ANALYSES AND RESULTS

The Artistic Portrayal of Women in Hemingway's Works. In Hemingway's fiction, the female figure embodies a quest for freedom and meaning in life. For instance, Brett Ashley in *The Sun Also Rises* represents a new type of woman in her era — independent, strong-willed, and capable of making her own decisions. She seeks equality with men and defies traditional gender expectations. For Hemingway, the female motif serves as a symbol of vitality, love, and spiritual liberation [1].

The Philosophical Dimension of Female Characters in Faulkner's Works. In Faulkner's writing, the image of women reflects the inner contradictions of society, moral decay, and existential suffering. Through Caddy Compson, the central female character in *The Sound and the Fury*, Faulkner dramatizes the struggle between personal freedom and the oppressive moral judgments of her community. Philosophically, Faulkner interprets the woman figure as an expression of lost spirituality and moral disintegration [2].

The Female Motif as a Mirror of the Era's Philosophy. In both Hemingway's and Faulkner's works, the female narrative functions not merely as a personal or romantic story but as a symbolic reflection of the philosophical and cultural state of their time. In Hemingway, the woman embodies thirst for life and freedom; in Faulkner, she becomes the emblem of disillusionment and the collapse of moral values. Therefore, the female theme in their works represents one of the central philosophical directions of twentieth-century literature.

CONCLUSION

In the works of Hemingway and Faulkner, the female narrative extends beyond personal or emotional experiences — it reflects the moral atmosphere and philosophical consciousness of the age. In Hemingway, women symbolize freedom, love, and renewal, whereas in Faulkner, they mirror social oppression and spiritual tragedy. Thus, the female motif in twentieth-century literature evolved

into a core philosophical and artistic concept.

The creative legacy of Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner marks a turning point in redefining the thematic and philosophical depth of the female image. In their fiction, women are not mere participants in emotional or domestic narratives; rather, they stand as embodiments of humanity's spiritual crisis, moral struggle, and existential reflection. Hemingway's heroines often emerge from the emotional vacuum of post-war life, expressing the human desire for meaning, faith, and renewal. Through them, he explores the philosophical ideas of freedom, love, loyalty, and self-discovery.

Faulkner's women, in contrast, live within the rigid social hierarchy of the American South, confronting tradition, patriarchy, and moral constraint. Their stories reveal deep issues of dignity, conscience, and the tension between inner strength and societal repression. For Faulkner, the woman becomes both a symbol of tragedy and resilience, a mirror of the human soul struggling against the transient values of society.

In conclusion, the representation of women in the works of Hemingway and Faulkner transcends gendered boundaries — it becomes a philosophical and aesthetic reflection of human nature, consciousness, and the moral condition of the age. Through their female characters, both authors explore the dialectic between freedom and responsibility, love and solitude, renewal and decay, thus turning the female motif into the spiritual and artistic axis of twentieth-century literary thought.

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