

THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

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***Abstract.** In this article described the representatives of both literatures, their similarities, differences and examples of the works of that Enlightenment era. Given article aims to share ideas about the Enlightenment and its impact on literature in both societies.*

***Key words.** American literature, cultural transformation, core principals, Western, genres, novel.*

The Enlightenment stands as a watershed moment in human history, a period characterized by an unprecedented surge of intellectual inquiry, rational thought, and cultural transformation. Emerging in the 18th century, this epoch of enlightenment ushered in a paradigm shift in the Western world, challenging entrenched beliefs, institutions, and social hierarchies. At its core, the Enlightenment championed the ideals of reason, liberty, and progress, advocating for the emancipation of human intellect from the shackles of dogma and superstition. This intellectual awakening rippled across various spheres of society, including literature, where it left an indelible imprint on both English and American literary traditions.

In the realm of literature, the Enlightenment engendered a profound reconfiguration of literary expression and thematic preoccupations. Writers on both sides of the Atlantic seized upon the spirit of intellectual inquiry and embraced literature as a medium for disseminating Enlightenment ideals. Themes of individualism, reason, and social reform pervaded literary works, reflecting the ethos of the age and its aspiration for human betterment. Moreover, the Enlightenment catalyzed the emergence of new literary forms and genres, as writers sought innovative means to articulate the complexities of human experience and the societal changes underway. If we look at the origins and core

principals of The Enlightenment, often referred to as the Age of Reason, was an intellectual and cultural movement that emerged in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries. At its core, the Enlightenment was a reaction against the dogma and superstition of the medieval period, as well as the absolute authority of church and monarchy. Influenced by the scientific revolution and the rise of rationalism, Enlightenment thinkers sought to apply the principles of reason and critical thinking to all areas of human knowledge and endeavor. [1]

English Enlightenment

The English Enlightenment was an intellectual movement that emerged in England in the late 17th and early 18th centuries as part of the broader European Enlightenment. It was characterized by an emphasis on reason, rationality, and scientific inquiry, as well as a belief in the power of human progress.

Key figures of the English Enlightenment include:

- John Locke: Developed the concept of natural rights and the social contract theory of government.
- Isaac Newton: Formulated the laws of motion and universal gravitation, revolutionizing scientific thought.
- Samuel Johnson: Literary critic, lexicographer, and author, best known for his dictionary of the English language.

American Enlightenment

The American Enlightenment, influenced by the English Enlightenment, emerged in the American colonies in the 18th century. It played a significant role in shaping the American Revolution and the founding of the United States.

Key figures of the American Enlightenment include:

- Benjamin Franklin: Scientist, inventor, statesman, and Founding Father.
- James Madison: Fourth President of the United States, known as the "Father of the Constitution."

Similarities between the English and American Enlightenments

- Both emphasized reason, rationality, and scientific inquiry.

- Both had a strong influence on political thought and the development of democratic ideals.

Differences between the English and American Enlightenments

- The American Enlightenment was heavily influenced by the need to justify the American Revolution and the establishment of a new nation.
- The American Enlightenment was more optimistic and egalitarian than the English Enlightenment, reflecting the frontier spirit and the belief in the equality of all men.

Daniel Defoe, best known for his novel "Robinson Crusoe," played a significant role in shaping the English Enlightenment through his prolific literary output and progressive ideas. Born in 1660, Defoe lived through a period of profound social, political, and intellectual change in England, and his writings reflect the spirit of inquiry, rationalism, and individualism that characterized the Enlightenment. [2] Defoe's early career as a journalist and pamphleteer laid the groundwork for his later literary achievements. In his numerous pamphlets and essays, Defoe tackled a wide range of social, political, and economic issues, advocating for religious tolerance, free trade, and social reform. His writings often challenged the prevailing orthodoxy of his time, earning him a reputation as a provocative and controversial figure. [3]

Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, was a prominent figure during the American Enlightenment, a period marked by a focus on reason, science, and individualism. Franklin's contributions to this intellectual movement were manifold, encompassing his achievements as a statesman, inventor, and writer. His "Poor Richard's Almanack," first published in 1732, stands as a testament to his wit, wisdom, and enduring influence on American culture. [4]

"Poor Richard's Almanack" was a popular publication in colonial America, known for its aphorisms, proverbs, and practical advice. Written under the pseudonym Richard Saunders, the almanac contained weather forecasts, astronomical data, and other useful information for farmers, merchants, and

homemakers. However, its most enduring feature was its collection of witty and pithy sayings, many of which became proverbial expressions still in use today. [5]

Here the example of statements from his novel:

1. God helps them that help themselves.
2. Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass.
3. If you do what you should not, you must hear what you would not.
4. An empty Bag cannot stand upright.
5. No gains without pains.

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QIYOSIY ADABIYOTSHUNOSLIKDA BADIY TARJIMANING USULLARI

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Annotatsiya. Qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslikning badiiy adabiyotda aks etishini bilishimiz uchun avval qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslik nima ekanligini va mazmun mohiyati haqida ma'lumotga ega bo'lishimiz kerak. Qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslikning tarjima sohasi bilan uzviy bog'liqligi bo'lgani sababli, bir qator o'zbek