



TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G‘OYALAR



DARWINIAN EVOLUTION AND THE IDEOLOGY OF SURVIVAL IN JACK LONDON’S WORKS

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Annotatsiya: *Ushbu maqola Jek Londonning asarlarida Darvin evolyutsiya nazariyasining ifodalanishini o‘rganadi. Londonning “The Call of the Wild”, “White Fang”, “The Sea-Wolf” va “To Build a Fire” kabi asarlarida hayvon va inson qahramonlari orqali tabiat qonunlari, moslashuvchanlik, instinkt va irsiy xotira asosida tirik qolish mavzusi ochib beriladi. Asarlar muallifning shaxsiy tajribasi va 1896-yildagi Ikkinchi oltin qazish sharoiti bilan chambarchas bog‘liq.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *Darvin evolyutsiyasi, moslashuv, hayvon qahramonlari, inson qahramonlari, tabiat qonunlari.*

Abstract: *This article examines the representation of Darwinian evolution in Jack London’s works. In novels and stories such as “The Call of the Wild”, “White Fang”, “The Sea-Wolf” and “To Build a Fire” both animal and human characters illustrate survival through adaptation, instinct and inherited memory, reflecting the laws of nature. Jack London’s narratives are closely connected to his personal experiences and the historical context of the Second Great Gold Rush of 1896.*

Keywords: *Darwinian evolution, adaptation, animal protagonists, human protagonists, natural law.*

Аннотация: *В статье рассматривается проявление дарвиновской эволюции в произведениях Джека Лондона. В романах и рассказах, таких как “Зов предков”, “Белый Клык”, “Морской волк” и “Сооружая огонь” животные и человеческие персонажи демонстрируют выживание через адаптацию, инстинкты и наследственную память, отражая законы природы. Произведения Лондона тесно связаны с его личным опытом и историческим контекстом Второй великой золотой лихорадки 1896 года.*

Ключевые слова: *дарвиновская эволюция, адаптация, животные персонажи, человеческие персонажи, законы природы.*

Introduction. Jack London (1876–1916) was one of the most popular American writers of his time, whose literary reputation was largely shaped by works exploring the relationship between nature, survival, and evolutionary struggle. [1.] A significant number of his most influential texts center on animal protagonists, particularly dogs, through which London artistically reinterprets Ch. Darwin’s (1809–1882) ideas of natural selection and the “survival of the fittest.” [3.102.] “The Call of the Wild” (1903) and “White Fang” (1906) stand as the most representative examples of this





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creative approach and occupy a central place in J. London's literary exploration of Darwinian evolution.

The emergence of these works is closely connected with the historical and cultural context of the Second Great Gold Rush of 1896, a period marked by mass migration, hardship, and competition for survival in the northern territories. At the age of twenty-one, Jack London himself joined the Gold Rush and spent nearly a year in the Northland. Although he failed to discover gold, the experience proved decisive for his artistic development. London returned with a wealth of impressions, adventures, and observations that later formed the foundation of his literary imagination. These experiences shaped his understanding of nature as a realm governed by struggle, adaptation, and environmental pressure which are considered to be core principles of Darwinian evolutionary theory.

Within this conceptual framework, dogs occupy a central position in Jack London's wilderness narratives and function as primary vehicles for expressing his evolutionary worldview. In "The Call of the Wild" and "White Fang", animals are not merely passive figures but protagonists whose lives unfold according to the laws of natural selection. [2.] Jack London endows his canine heroes with instinct, memory, adaptability, and agency, thereby transforming them into symbolic representations of evolutionary processes rather than simple anthropomorphic characters.

Critical debate has long focused on the question of whether J. London's animal characters are excessively humanized. While some scholars interpret Buck and White Fang as anthropomorphic figures, a Darwinian reading suggests a different perspective. Buck undergoes a process of de-civilization, evolving from a domesticated dog living comfortably in California into the leader of a wolf pack in the Alaskan wilderness. His survival is determined by his ability to adapt, revealing inherited instincts and ancestral memory. In contrast, White Fang follows the opposite evolutionary trajectory, moving from the wild toward domestication. Together, these parallel narratives illustrate evolutionary adaptability under changing environmental conditions rather than moral transformation in a purely human sense.

The same Darwinian logic governs J. London's portrayal of human characters. In "The Sea-Wolf" (1904), the protagonist Wolf Larsen is presented as a "superman" a figure of extraordinary physical strength and intellectual power who appears to dominate both nature and other individuals. However, despite his apparent superiority, Wolf Larsen ultimately fails to survive within the structures of modern society. Jack London himself explained that his intention was to demonstrate that such a figure, shaped solely by brute strength and will, is incompatible with social existence. This narrative outcome reinforces the idea that survival is not guaranteed by power alone but depends on adaptation to specific environmental and social conditions.





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Jack London's short story "To Build a Fire" (1910) offers an even more uncompromising illustration of the dominance of natural law. In this work, a man ventures into the extreme cold of the Alaskan wilderness, relying on his rational confidence and technological tools. His inability to respect the power of nature results in his death, emphasizing the indifference of the natural world to human intention. Here, Darwinian determinism is presented in its starkest form: nature operates according to its own laws, and those who fail to adapt are inevitably defeated.

The ideology of survival in London's works is closely connected with his personal worldview and life experience. London himself lived As H. L. Mencken wrote, J. London's work had "all the elements of sound fiction: clear thinking, a sense of character, the dramatic instincts and ... words charming and slyly significant".

In conclusion, Jack London's literary works vividly reflect the influence of his personal experiences and the historical context of the Second Great Gold Rush, using both animal and human characters to explore the principles of Darwinian evolution. Through protagonists like Buck, White Fang, Wolf Larsen, and the man in "To Build a Fire", Jack London demonstrates that survival depends not on moral virtue or sheer strength alone, but on adaptability to environmental and social conditions. By portraying nature as indifferent and life as a struggle governed by instinct, memory, and adaptation, Jack London transforms evolutionary theory into a powerful artistic framework, offering a profound vision of existence shaped by natural law.

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