

"GRAHAM GREENE'S WRITING STYLE: LACONICISM, IRONY, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPTH"

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Аннотация: В статье рассматриваются характерные особенности стиля одного из крупнейших английских писателей XX века — Грэма Грина. Особое внимание уделяется его умению сочетать элементы приключенческого романа с философскими размышлениями о морали, религии и политике. Автор статьи анализирует ключевые компоненты писательской манеры Грина: лаконичность и простоту изложения, минимализм в описаниях, использование иронии и сарказма, акцент на этические конфликты и внутреннюю психологическую борьбу персонажей. Также освещается роль религиозных и политических мотивов в его произведениях. На примере знаковых романов — «Тихий американец» и «Наш человек в Гаване» — демонстрируется способность Грина использовать язык как средство глубокого психологического анализа и социальной критики. Статья подчёркивает, что стиль Грина остаётся актуальным благодаря его гуманистическому послыу и стремлению к философскому осмыслению человеческой природы.

Ключевые слова: Ирония, Психологизм, Мораль, Религия, Лаконичность

Abstract: The article examines the characteristic features of the style of one of the greatest English writers of the 20th century, Graham Greene. Particular attention is paid to his ability to combine elements of an adventure novel with philosophical reflections on morality, religion, and politics. The author of the article analyzes the key components of Greene's writing style: laconism and simplicity of presentation, minimalism in descriptions, the use of irony and sarcasm, an emphasis on ethical conflicts and the internal psychological struggle of the characters. The role of religious and political motives in his works is also highlighted. Using the example of iconic novels - "The Quiet American" and "Our Man in Havana" - Greene's ability to

use language as a means of deep psychological analysis and social criticism is demonstrated. The article emphasizes that Greene's style remains relevant due to its humanistic message and desire for a philosophical understanding of human nature.

Keywords: *Conciseness, Irony, Psychologism, Morality, Religion*

Graham Greene's Writing Style

Graham Greene (1904–1991) was an English novelist, playwright, journalist, and screenwriter, one of the greatest prose stylists of the 20th century. His work is marked by the depth of psychological insight, moral and religious concerns, and thrilling plots, often with elements of a spy thriller or political intrigue. One of the most prominent British writers of the 20th century, whose novels have been translated into various languages and continue to be popular among readers all over the world. His literary work represents a variety of genres, including novels and short stories, plays and screenplays. Greene wrote more than 25 novels, numerous short stories, and essays. And yet, despite the range of genres and subject matter, his style is immediately identifiable and unique.

The peculiarity of Graham Greene's style consists in his ability to combine the elements of an adventure novel with deep philosophical reflections on man, morality, religion, and politics. In this paper, we will analyze the key elements of Graham Greene's style, his approach to character and plot development, and the influence of his works on world literature.

Main features of Graham Greene's style

- Conciseness and simplicity of presentation

Graham Greene's writing is marked by economical use of words. He excludes lengthy descriptions, grand scenery and long monologues. He prefers conciseness and simplicity instead. All this results in his writings being lively, and their reception - immediate and deeply emotional.

Greene's style is normally "simple," but in reality, it is the work of the author's talent, which is able to convey complex ideas and emotions through simple and understandable words. Any element of the work - either a description of the setting, actions of characters or characters' soul life - has its place and sense.

- Minimalism and refusal from superfluous details

Graham Greene is known to use the fewest words possible to create the most descriptive picture. He describes the appearance of characters or landscape only rarely, yet always successfully conveys the mood and overall nature. His descriptions are sometimes modest, yet always accurate and deliberate. Greene uses description not to immortalize facts, but to restore mood and feeling.

- Irony and sarcasm

One of the characteristic traits of Graham Greene's style is irony, which has the power to enthrall the reader with its wit and undertone. He never hesitates to use sarcasm to satirize human weaknesses or criticize social and political foundations. The ironic tone allows Greene to maintain a certain distance from the events described in his novels, but express deep and at times bitter ideas.

- The problem of conflicts and ethical dilemmas

Graham Greene's novels tend to center around people being presented with an ethical dilemma. His characters tend to be presented with difficult choices in which there is no clear solution, and they must act with the risks and implications involved. This approach makes the reader question the nature of morality, responsibility, love and betrayal. The intersection of political and personal strife is the basis for the majority of his works, which allows the author to touch upon crucial social and philosophical issues.

He was not afraid to preach disloyalty in the most unexpected situations. In 1969, at the Shakespeare Prize ceremony at the University of Hamburg, he delivered a speech called *The Virtue of Disloyalty*, a Shakespeare speech, warning his audience that the choice of topic would hardly please the great bard. He described the bard as "the greatest poet of conservatism" and, not without sarcasm, compared Shakespeare to a retired colonial governor for whom "peace is associated with firm rule." Greene says: "It is easier to rule when people shout: 'Galilean,' 'Papist,' 'Fascist,' 'Communist.' Isn't it the writer's job to act as the devil's advocate, to appeal to the sympathetic understanding of those who are not subject to state approval?" He sees the deepest tragedy in Shakespeare's life in the fact that the playwright closed his eyes to the horrors of his age, never spoke out against the power of the monarch, and held his tongue "for the sake of court friendship and the great house in Stratford" [Green, 2014, pp. 12–16]. Who else could have said such things about Shakespeare at the presentation of the prize in his great name? [V.G. Babenko]

- Political and social matters

Graham Greene wrote about politics, revolutions, wars and spy conspiracies, as in his iconic novels "The Quiet American" and "Our Man in Havana". His characters are often placed in a scenario where personal lives become involved with international political happenings. In both these novels, political maneuvering, ideological conflicts and their impact on personal lives of ordinary people are vigorously condemned by Greene.

- Religion and morality issues

Religion plays a major role in Graham Greene's writing. He was a very religious individual, and the majority of his writing concerns issues of faith, doubt and spiritual seeking. In such novels as "The Power and the Glory," Greene explores the tension between faith and sin, ideals and reality. His characters are typically found in situations in which their religious beliefs are in conflict with reality, and they must make difficult decisions.

Greene is more attracted to moral, ethical and psychological collisions. They appear in novels connected with religious issues, the complex attitude of the Catholic hero to the orthodox provisions of the Roman Church, and in works reflecting the complexities of the pressing socio-political reality, when the hero faces the question of choosing a social position, of realizing his responsibility for what is happening before his eyes. Examples of his first works are "The Power and the Glory" (1940), "The Essence of the Matter" (1948), "Monsignor Quixote" (1982); examples of the second are political detectives of the 1930-1940s, "The Quiet American" (1955), "The Comedians" (1966), "The Honorary Consul" (1973).

But in each of the novels, the writer stands up for the defense of the human personality. At the same time, the assertion of the humanistic ideal acquires a special shade, which to a certain extent leads to a philosophical understanding of life. It consists in the author's opposition, based on the material of the picture of life presented by him in his novels, of the concrete and the abstract, the really tangible and the abstract. [S.N. Flyushkina]

- Eternal Themes

Graham Greene did not maintain records of such eternal themes such as love, betrayal and survival. His characters experience crises which are marked by internal and external conflicts, grappling to understand what it means to be human while

fighting in a world full of cruelty and fear. Love in his works is not only a positive force, but also a source of suffering, demonstrating the reality of relations.

Psychologism in Graham Greene's works

Graham Greene is a master of psychological insight. His heroes are not typical literary characters with well-established features of a "good" or a "bad" person. They are complex, multi-dimensional, and often their action or thought is the opposite of what would be morally right in ordinary circumstances.

Greene depicts the inner lives of his heroes with perfect accuracy. They are typically in a state of moral conflict, when there is no escape. This tension between inner desires and outer circumstances is the basis of psychological conflict. In "The Quiet American," for example, the hero, who is torn between two women, knows that neither of them will make him happy, but he must choose, thus bringing out the complexity of his inner conflict.

Greene uses symbolism and metaphors as well to add to the psychological element of his stories. His books often include symbols that reveal his heroes not only by what they do, but by symbolic meanings.

The Most Important Works and Their Contribution to Style

- **The Quiet American**

This is one of Graham Greene's best-known novels. It tells the story of a British journalist who covers the political evolution in Vietnam and gets drawn into the war without fully understanding the totality of what is taking place. The novel is set in laconic, forceful prose that helps to advance the dramatic buildup of the action. The novel touches on the themes of political intrigue, nationalism and personal tragedies, but also reveals the character of the individuals in their internal contradictions.

- **Our Man in Havana**

Graham Greene uses satirical means to tell the story of a British vacuum cleaner salesman who becomes a spy for the British government, without having any qualifications or training. Greene satirizes political manipulation and insincerity, as well as bureaucracy, and also brings out the comic aspects of this whole situation. The tone of the novel is satirical and ironic, and hence the novel is both tragic and comic. Comparison of Graham Greene's style with other writers

Within the literary tradition of the 20th century, Graham Greene finds himself in the same category as writers such as John Steinbeck, Vivian Wood and Orson Welles.

His literary style is comparable to Steinbeck's minimalist style, who similarly preferred an abstemiousness of words and the unfolding of the plot through the interior life of the characters. Unlike Steinbeck, though, Greene is characterized by a more caustic sarcasm and irony, which make his novels less sentimental, but no less deep.

Conclusion: Graham Greene's own writing style is unique in its brevity, irony, and ability to bring the reader into a world of political tension and ethical dilemma. His novels remain modern in theme, offering the reader not just compelling story, but also deep philosophical understanding of human nature, religion, love, and authority. Graham Greene is rightly a master of psychological realism and one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, whose novels still exert an influence on new writers and readers alike.

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