

ANALYSIS OF THE INNER WORLD AND EMOTIONS OF PECHORIN IN THE NOVEL “A HERO OF OUR TIME”

Baxtiyorova Ziyoda

Student of TMC Institute 2nd year student

*Supervisor: **Kamola Jumayeva***

PhD, Associate Professor at TMC Institute

Annotation: *The work “A Hero of Our Time” is one of the key works of 19th-century Russian literature, in which the author Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov reveals the features of an era influenced by movements such as Romanticism and Realism. The main focus of the work is the character of Pechorin, a complex and contradictory personality who is unable to find his place in society and suffers from boredom, inner emptiness, and disappointment in life. Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov deeply explores Pechorin’s inner world, his emotions, and psychological experiences, showing the reader how his character influences the fate of the people around him. Through the protagonist’s interactions with other characters, the author reveals different aspects of human nature and raises important questions about the meaning of life, responsibility, and the impact of an individual on others. The work remains relevant to this day, as it addresses timeless themes of loneliness, inner conflict, and the search for meaning in life, making the character of Pechorin one of the most vivid and memorable figures in literature.*

Key Words: *realism, romanticism, inner world, superfluous man, internal conflict, society, emotions.*

In 19th-century society, there were worried deep changes, and literature developed under the influence of directions like romanticism and realism. “Romanticism – attitudes or intellectual orientation that characterized many words of literature, painting, music, architecture, criticism and historiography in Western civilization over a period from the late 18th to the end mid-19th-century”⁴⁶. “Realism literary period emerged in the nineteenth century as a reaction against Romanticism, which emphasized emotional expression and often included fantastical elements. Realism sought to depict life accurately and truthfully, focusing on the everyday experiences of ordinary people without embellishment or stylization”⁴⁷. More and more often writers were addressed to the inner world of people there emotions and feelings, in addition tried to show real life and personal psychology. In this period, Mikhail Lermontov wrote his own novel “A Hero of Our Time”.

⁴⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/art/Romanticism> (The source was accessed 26.03.2026 at this time).

⁴⁷ <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/arts-and-entertainment/realism-literature> (The source was accessed 26.03.2026 at this time).



This literary work tells about an officer, Person's life – difficult and ambiguous person which did not find their own place in society. The author sought to show the generation of people who feel inner emptiness and disappointment. Especially in novel, the most interesting was how Pechorin affects other people's destiny. Every person comes across it with him change it, and often their life is never the same again. That is why this novel nowadays is still relevant and about influence personality of surrounding people.

Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov, who was born in 1814, is a famous Russian poet and writer of the 19th-century who made a significant contribution to the development of Russian literature and became one of the most prominent representatives of his time. Among his famous works are the poem "Mtsyri", the novel "A Hero of Our Time" and the poem "Death of a Poet." His work is distinguished by profound psychological insight, attention to the external world and themes of loneliness and disillusionment. The novel "A Hero of Our Time" one of the author's most famous works, was created in the 19th-century and played a crucial role in the development of Russian literature. "The author, inspired by the works of Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin, in particular the novel "Eugene Onegin", where the image of the so-called "superfluous man" intelligent, educated, but disillusioned with life and unable to find his place in society – was already portrayed"⁴⁸. Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov also develops this idea and creates a deeper image in the person of his hero Pechorin, in "A Hero of Our Time".

The novel's protagonist, Pechorin, is a contradictory and multifaceted individual. On the one hand, he is intelligent, observant and engaging. However, on the other hand, he is cold, selfish, and internally devastated. He is unable to find meaning in life and often plays with the feelings of others without considering the consequences. It is also worth mentioning the other characters of this story, each of whom has their own role and qualities. For instance, Bella – is a naive and sincere girl, Maksim Maksimovich is a kind and simple man, and as for Princess Mary, she is very intelligent and sensitive. Through these characters, the author wants to show us different sides of human nature and society. Particularly important is the powerful influence Pechorin has on the destinies of the people he encounters. After meeting him, their lives change, and they are never the same again. Thus, in this novel, the author reveals not only the character of the main hero but also shows the consequences of his actions, making the reader reflect on human nature and its influence on others.

"A Hero of Our Time" is a novel that reveals the complex inner world of the main character, Pechorin. "The inner world is a dynamic and multilayered phenomenon, an evolving synthesis of perception, emotion, memory and meaning. It is not a fixed space but a living system, continuously shaped by sensory input, experience and reflection. Our senses provide the raw data of reality, memory contextualizes it, and the higher

⁴⁸ Yunjine Yang. A Comparative Study of the Image "Superfluous Person" in Chinese and Russian Literature. – China – 2023. – 38 p.





functions of the prefrontal cortex allow analysis, planning and introspection”⁴⁹. He is a hero who embodies a contradictory personality, combining keen observation with an inner emptiness. He is unable to find meaning in life, which leads to disappointment and loneliness. Pechorin’s inner world is full of contradictions, which is why he often does not understand himself. On one hand, he is a person who possesses all the qualities needed to be happy – he is intelligent, educated, attractive and interesting to others. But on the other hand, despite this, he does not feel life satisfaction and quickly becomes bored. Pechorin loses interest in people and events, which drives him to seek new sensations and adventures. In the novel, he often plays with the feelings of others without thinking about the consequences, causing pain not only to those around him but also to himself. The main character’s inner problem lies in his inability to find harmony with himself. At the same time, he is aware of his flaws, understands that he harms others, yet does not try to change his behavior, which makes him an even more complex and tragic character. Pechorin seems to observe his life from the outside, without experiencing true joy or happiness. Thus, he represents the image of a person who has lost his inner purpose and cannot find his place in this world. His inner world is full of doubts, emptiness and hidden experiences, which makes him one of the deepest and most memorable characters in 19th-century literature.

The emotions of the main character throughout the entire novel constantly change and depend on the people he meets and the events in which he takes part. “Emotion is a complex state that involves awareness, physical sensations and behavior, reflecting the personal importance of an event or thing. Emotions have been studied across diverse fields, including psychology, neuroscience and sociology, with each field contributing unique perspectives. Emotions are not simply amorphous feelings but are structured by neurology, evaluations, behaviors and social contexts, representing an integrated phenomenon. Emotions can be general or specific, brief or long-lasting and can have physical expressions or remain invisible. They influence cognitive processes, such as memory and attention and play a role in social behavior”⁵⁰. At the beginning of the novel, the main character meets Maksim Maksimovich, and he feels a slight interest and curiosity. He observes the new acquaintance from a distance, without becoming emotionally involved; his feelings are calm and restrained. Later, Maksim Maksimovich introduces Pechorin to Bella, and at that moment, excitement and curiosity awaken in him. Bella herself is very naive and sincere, attracting Pechorin’s attention and

arousing in him excitement and pleasure from her attention. However, over time, the hero’s interest in Bella fades, and he becomes indifferent, which leads to tragic consequences – Bella dies without experiencing true love. With Princess Mary, Pechorin also shows curiosity and a desire to experience new emotions. At first, his

⁴⁹ <https://medium.com/@danilo.covic.bg/the-architecture-of-the-inner-world-7de10abc40ee> (The source was accessed 08.04.2026 at this time).

⁵⁰ <https://www.britannica.com/science/emotion> (The source was accessed 08.04.2026 at this time).





feelings are intense: he observes, evaluates and plays with her emotions. Over time, however, his interest weakens, leaving only emptiness and disappointment. Pechorin realizes that emotions do not bring joy but only deepen his inner coldness. During the events in Pyatigorsk, especially in the game with predictions, Pechorin experiences tension, slight fear and excitement. He reflects on fate and the randomness of life, yet remains cold and restrained in his expressions. At the end of the novel, when Pechorin says goodbye to Maksim Maksimovich and sets off on a new journey, his emotions are expressed as indifference and inner detachment. Perhaps, deep down, he feels a slight regret about the past, but he suppresses these feelings and chooses freedom and movement, leaving behind emptiness and coldness. Therefore Pechorin's emotions reveal his instability and superficiality: interest and excitement are replaced by indifference and emptiness. They do not bring him happiness and only increase his loneliness, showing that he is indifferent to his own life, that he has lost the meaning of life, making the hero's image even more tragic and profound.

In conclusion, Mikhail Yuryevich Lermontov represents the image of a person who has lost his inner purpose and cannot find his place in this world. His inner world is full of doubts, emptiness, and hidden emotions, which make him one of the deepest and most memorable characters in 19th-century literature.

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