

HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS, TRUTH, AND FREEDOM IN UNDER THE NET

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Abstract: This article analyzes *Under the Net* by Iris Murdoch, focusing on the themes of truth, language, and freedom. It argues that human understanding is limited and shaped by subjective perception. Through the character of Jake Donaghue, the novel shows that individuals often misinterpret reality. The metaphor of the “net” represents the conceptual and linguistic systems that restrict human cognition. The study also highlights the limitations of language in expressing truth and presents freedom as a relative concept dependent on self-awareness. The article concludes that although absolute truth cannot be fully attained, the search for it is essential to human existence.

Key words: truth, freedom, self-understanding, inner world of individuals, philosophy of language, subjectivity

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada Iris Murdoch tomonidan yozilgan "Under the net" asaridagi haqiqat, til va erkinlik mavzulari tahlil qilinadi. Maqolada inson tafakkurining cheklanganligi va subyektiv idrok bilan shakllanishi haqida fikr yuritiladi. Romandagi Jeyk Donagyu obrazi insonlarni voqelikni noto'g'ri talqin qilinishini ko'rsatib bergan. Asosiy metafora bo'lgan "to'r" inson tafakkurini cheklovchi nazariy va lingivistik tizimlarni anglatadi. Shuningdek tilni haqiqatni anglashdagi cheklangan imkoniyatlari hamda erkinlik tushunchasini o'zini -o'zi anglashda nisbiy ekanligini talqin etadi. Xulosa qilib aytganda, mutlaq haqiqatga erishib bo'lmasada, uni izlash jarayoni inson mavjudligining muhim qismi hisoblanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: haqiqat, erkinlik, o'zlikni anglash, shaxslarning ichki dunyosi, til tushunchasi, subyektivlik

Аннотация: Данная статья анализирует роман *Under the Net*, написанный Iris Murdoch, с акцентом на темы истины, языка и свободы. В работе утверждается, что человеческое понимание ограничено и формируется под влиянием субъективного восприятия. На примере персонажа Джейка Донахью в романе показано, что люди часто неправильно интерпретируют реальность. Метафора «сети» представляет собой концептуальные и языковые структуры, ограничивающие человеческое познание. В статье также подчеркиваются ограничения языка в выражении истины, а свобода рассматривается как относительное понятие, зависящее от

самопознания. В заключение делается вывод о том, что, хотя абсолютная истина недостижима, процесс её поиска является важной частью человеческого существования.

Ключевые слова: истина, свобода, самопознание, внутренний мир личности, философия языка, субъективность

Introduction. One of the prominent writers of 20th-century English literature, known for her philosophical approach, is Iris Murdoch. Although *Under the Net* is her first novel, it presents deeply layered and complex ideas. The work explores the limitations of human consciousness, the problem of understanding truth, the role of language, and the concept of freedom in an interconnected way. Through this novel, the author demonstrates how complex and contradictory the process of perceiving reality can be.

The central character of the novel is Jake Donaghue, a writer and translator who lives without a clear plan or purpose. His life is unstable and disordered, and he often makes decisions based on chance rather than reason. Through his encounters, relationships, and adventures, the author reveals the inner world of an individual and the process of self-understanding. Although Jake considers himself a free and independent person, the development of events shows that he is uncertain and unable to control his own life.

Findings and discussion. One of the main ideas of the novel is the problem of understanding truth. Jake interprets events from his own perspective and often arrives at incorrect conclusions. This reflects the subjective nature of human cognition. In other words, a person does not perceive reality objectively, but rather through personal experiences, beliefs, and conceptual frameworks. Therefore, truth does not always appear in a clear or absolute form. The author expresses this idea through the metaphor of the “net,” which represents the system of concepts formed in the human mind that prevents a full understanding of reality.

The issue of language also plays a significant role in the novel. Humans rely on language to explain and express reality, but the capacity of language is limited. Often, meaning conveyed through language does not fully reflect reality; instead, it simplifies or distorts it. This idea is further developed through the character of Hugo Belfounder. Hugo understands the limitations of language and critically evaluates its role. Through him, the author suggests that language itself can become an obstacle in the process of knowing.

The concept of freedom is another important theme in the novel. Jake believes he is free because he is not bound by strict social obligations. However, his life is shaped by chance events, other people,

and external circumstances. This shows that freedom is a relative concept. A person may feel free, but in reality, they are influenced by many external factors. The author emphasizes that true freedom is closely connected with self-awareness.

In addition, the novel explores the problem of self-understanding. Jake attempts to find meaning in his life, yet he constantly faces inner conflicts. Although he considers himself a writer, he is also in a state of creative instability. This suggests that his personal identity is not fully formed. Through this character, the author portrays the inner crisis and psychological instability of the modern individual.

The relationship between chance and necessity is also an important aspect of the novel. The events in Jake’s life are often unplanned and occur randomly. This demonstrates that life is not strictly predetermined. The author highlights the dominance of uncertainty and unpredictability over order and determinism in human existence.

The artistic features of the novel are also noteworthy. The author uses a simple and clear style, yet beneath this simplicity lies deep philosophical meaning. Dialogues play a significant role in conveying the central ideas of the work. In particular, the conversations between Hugo and Jake provide a strong foundation for philosophical reflection.

Conclusion. In conclusion, *Under the Net* is a philosophically rich novel that explores human consciousness, the nature of truth, the limitations of language, and the complexity of freedom. Iris Murdoch encourages readers not only to follow the events but also to reflect deeply on them. The novel ultimately suggests that although humans may never fully grasp the truth, the very process of seeking it gives meaning to human life.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSIGHTS IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

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Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilini ikkinchi til sifatida o‘rganish jarayonining nazariy va amaliy jihatlarini chuqur tahlil qilinadi. Ingliz tilining global miqyosdagi ahamiyati, uni o‘rganishda uchraydigan muammolar hamda samarali o‘rganish strategiyalari ilmiy manbalar asosida yoritiladi. Shuningdek, maqolada “jimlik davri” fenomeni va o‘quvchilarning individual farqlari til o‘zlashtirish jarayonining muhim omillari sifatida ko‘rib chiqiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari ingliz tilini o‘rganish kommunikativ kompetensiyani rivojlantirish va global imkoniyatlarni kengaytirishda muhim vosita ekanligini ko‘rsatadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: ingliz tili, ikkinchi til, til o‘rganish, kommunikativ kompetensiya, jimlik davri, individual farqlar.

Annotation. This article provides an in-depth analysis of both theoretical and practical aspects of learning English as a second language. It examines the global importance of English, common challenges faced by learners, and effective strategies for language acquisition. Special attention is given to key concepts such as the “silent period” and individual learner differences. The study concludes that English language learning plays a significant role in enhancing communicative competence and expanding global opportunities.

Keywords: English language, second language, language acquisition, communicative competence, silent period, individual differences.

Introduction. In today’s interconnected world, the English language has become a dominant medium of global communication. It is widely used in education, science, technology, and international relations. As a result, learning English as a second language is no longer optional but a necessity for individuals who aim to succeed in academic and professional environments. According to Brown (2007), language