

THE STRUGGLE OF WORKING-CLASS WOMEN IN "ESTHER WATERS" NOVEL

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Abstract: This article analyzes the representation of working-class women and social inequality in the novel 'Esther Waters' by George Moore. The study explores the hardships faced by women in Victorian society, particularly focusing on poverty, morality, and social judgment. Through the character of Esther Waters, the author presents a realistic depiction of a woman's struggle for survival and dignity. The paper also discusses how the novel reflects the social conditions of the late nineteenth century and highlights themes such as motherhood, perseverance, and social injustice.

Keywords: Victorian society, working-class women, social inequality, motherhood, realism, moral struggle.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola Esther Waters romanida ishchi tabaqaga mansub ayollarning tasviri hamda ijtimoiy tengsizlik masalasini tahlil qiladi. Tadqiqotda, ayniqsa, Viktoriya davri jamiyatida ayollar duch kelgan qiyinchiliklar — qashshoqlik, axloqiy me'yorlar va jamiyat hukmi masalalari o'rganiladi. Asar muallifi George Moore Esther Waters obrazi orqali ayolning yashab qolish va o'z qadr-qimmatini saqlab qolish yo'lidagi kurashini realistik tarzda tasvirlaydi. Maqolada, shuningdek, roman XIX asr oxiridagi ijtimoiy sharoitlarni qanday aks ettirishi hamda undagi onalik, qat'iyatlilik va ijtimoiy adolatsizlik kabi mavzular yoritiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: Viktoriya davri jamiyati, ishchi tabaqa ayollari, ijtimoiy tengsizlik, onalik, realizm, axloqiy kurash.

Аннотация: Данная статья анализирует изображение женщин рабочего класса и проблему социального неравенства в романе Esther Waters Джорджа Мура. Исследование рассматривает трудности, с которыми сталкивались женщины в викторианском обществе, уделяя особое внимание таким аспектам, как бедность, мораль и общественное осуждение. Через образ Эстер Уотерс автор представляет реалистичное изображение борьбы женщины за выживание и сохранение своего достоинства. В статье также рассматривается, как роман отражает социальные условия конца XIX века и раскрывает такие темы, как материнство, настойчивость и социальная несправедливость.

Ключевые слова: викторианское общество, женщины рабочего класса, социальное неравенство, материнство, реализм, моральная борьба.

Introduction. The novel 'Esther Waters' by George Moore is considered one of the important works of literary realism. It portrays the difficult life of a working-class woman in Victorian England. The story focuses on Esther Waters, a young maid who faces numerous challenges including poverty, social discrimination, and single motherhood. The novel provides a realistic depiction of the harsh conditions faced by lower-class women in the nineteenth century. Through Esther's experiences, Moore criticizes the rigid moral standards and economic hardships of society.

Methodology. This research is based on literary analysis and qualitative methodology. The study examines the narrative structure, character development, and social themes presented in the novel. Textual analysis is used to identify key moments in the story that illustrate the difficulties faced by the protagonist. The research also applies a socio-literary approach, which helps to understand how the novel reflects the social conditions of Victorian England.

Findings and Discussion One of the most prominent themes explored in the novel is social inequality and the rigid class structure of Victorian society. The protagonist, Esther Waters, belongs to the working class and must rely on domestic service as her primary means of survival. Her employment as a servant in wealthy households reflects the limited opportunities available to women from lower social backgrounds during the nineteenth century. Victorian society was characterized by strict social hierarchies in which class divisions played a crucial role in determining an individual's life opportunities. People born into the lower class often had very little chance to improve their social or economic status. Esther's life clearly illustrates this reality. Despite her diligence and moral strength, she continues to face economic insecurity and social marginalization. Domestic service, which was one of the most common forms of employment for women during this period, often involved long working hours, strict discipline, and limited personal freedom. Servants were expected to follow the rules of their employers without question, and their personal lives were often closely monitored. In the novel, Esther's experiences reveal the vulnerability of domestic workers and the imbalance of power between employers and servants. The author uses Esther's story to demonstrate how poverty shapes individual choices and life trajectories. Economic hardship forces Esther to make difficult decisions that affect her future. In many situations, her actions are not the result of personal failure but rather the consequence of structural

inequalities within society. Through this portrayal, the novel offers a critical perspective on the social and economic conditions of Victorian England. It highlights the absence of effective social support systems for disadvantaged individuals, particularly women who faced additional barriers due to gender expectations.

Another central theme in the novel is motherhood and the responsibilities associated with it. Esther's life changes dramatically when she becomes pregnant after a romantic relationship with William Latch. When he abandons her, Esther is left alone to face the consequences of their relationship. In Victorian society, unmarried motherhood was considered a serious moral transgression. Women who found themselves in such circumstances were often subjected to social stigma, discrimination, and exclusion. Esther experiences these consequences firsthand as she struggles to maintain her employment and reputation. Despite the severe social pressure to abandon or conceal her child, Esther chooses to keep and raise her son. This decision demonstrates her strong moral character and deep sense of responsibility. Rather than succumbing to despair, she accepts the challenges associated with motherhood and dedicates herself to providing for her child. Motherhood becomes the central motivation behind Esther's perseverance and resilience. Her child gives meaning to her struggles and encourages her to continue working despite the difficulties she faces. Even when she experiences financial instability or unemployment, she remains determined to secure a better future for her son. The novel portrays motherhood not only as a biological relationship but also as a source of emotional strength and personal identity. Esther's sacrifices illustrate the profound connection between a mother and her child and highlight the resilience of women who must overcome social and economic obstacles while caring for their families.

The novel also critically examines the moral values of Victorian society. During this period, strict moral codes governed social behavior, particularly in relation to gender roles and sexuality. Women were expected to maintain a reputation of purity and respectability, while men were often granted greater social freedom. Esther's situation as an unmarried mother exposes her to severe moral judgment. Society views her as having violated social norms, and she must endure criticism and discrimination as a result. However, the novel challenges these moral assumptions by presenting Esther as a compassionate, hardworking, and responsible individual. While Esther is punished socially for her actions, the man responsible for her pregnancy faces far fewer consequences. This contrast reveals the existence of gender-based double standards within Victorian culture. Women were often blamed for moral failures even when men played an equal role in the situation. By highlighting this

inequality, the author exposes the hypocrisy embedded in societal values. The novel suggests that moral judgments are often influenced by social prejudice rather than genuine ethical considerations. Through Esther's experiences, the narrative encourages readers to question rigid moral expectations and to recognize the complexity of human circumstances. Instead of condemning Esther, the novel invites sympathy and understanding for individuals who struggle within restrictive social systems.

Another important aspect of the novel is the theme of perseverance and personal growth. Throughout the narrative, Esther faces numerous hardships, including poverty, social isolation, and emotional disappointment. However, she consistently demonstrates resilience and determination. Unlike many traditional literary heroines who rely on marriage or social connections to achieve security, Esther must depend primarily on her own efforts. Her determination to work hard and support her child reflects a strong sense of independence and self-reliance. Over time, Esther develops greater confidence and emotional strength. Her experiences teach her valuable lessons about responsibility, perseverance, and self-respect. Through these challenges, she gradually transforms from a vulnerable young servant into a mature and resilient individual. The author's realistic portrayal of Esther's struggles emphasizes the importance of inner strength and determination in overcoming adversity. Rather than presenting an idealized or romanticized narrative, the novel depicts the everyday realities of working-class life and the courage required to endure them.

Finally, the novel can be interpreted as a broader critique of Victorian society. Through Esther's personal story, the author sheds light on social issues such as class inequality, gender discrimination, and the lack of social protection for vulnerable individual. The narrative style of the novel reflects the principles of literary realism. Instead of focusing on extraordinary events or heroic characters, the story portrays ordinary people and their everyday struggles. This realistic approach allows readers to better understand the social conditions of the period. By presenting a detailed and sympathetic portrait of a working-class woman, the novel challenges readers to reconsider their assumptions about morality, class, and gender roles. Esther's story ultimately serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience and dignity of individuals who struggle against social injustice.

Conclusion. Esther Waters' is a powerful novel that highlights the struggles of working-class women in Victorian England. Through the character of Esther, George Moore presents a realistic portrayal of a woman who faces poverty, social judgment, and personal hardship. The novel emphasizes themes of perseverance, motherhood, and social

injustice and remains an important text for understanding social history and gender dynamics of the nineteenth century.

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TRADITION AND MODERNITY IN EASTERN AND WESTERN YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH CONTEXTS

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Abstract: This article explores the artistic interpretation of tradition and modernity in literature for young adults (YA), focusing on the comparative analysis of Uzbek and English literary traditions. While English YA literature often emphasizes individual agency and the deconstruction of social norms (modernity), Uzbek literature traditionally centers on moral guidance and national identity (tradition). However, contemporary trends show a convergence where both cultures navigate the complexities of globalization.

Key words: Young adult literature, tradition, modernity, comparative analysis, Uzbek literature, English literature, artistic interpretation, globalization, cultural identity, didacticism.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada o‘smirlar adabiyotida an‘ana va modernlikning badiiy talqini o‘zbek va ingliz adabiy an‘analari qiyosiy tahlili misolida tadqiq etiladi. Ingliz o‘smirlar adabiyotida ko‘pincha