



## **MORAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL GROWTH OF PROTAGONISTS IN LITERARY WORKS**

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### **Abstract**

This article deals with the types of bildungsroman novels. Writers revealed social issues in society; main heroes overcame difficulties to gain success in their life in novels. The article tries to analyze moral and psychological growth of protagonists in literary works.

**Keywords:** spiritual world, literary works, moral evolving, conception, ambience, ameliorate, real life, orphan, injustice, psychology, personality.

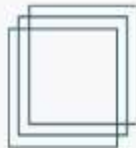
### **Introduction**

It is component part of comparative literature to study the psychology of protagonists in English and Uzbek literary works. The psychology of protagonists can be studied through their interactions with other characters in literary works. The spiritual world of main heroes was analyzed by their conversations with themselves (monologue) or with others (dialogue). One of the famous modernist Irish writers of the twentieth century was James Joyce who made his great contribution to the rise of Irish literature with his novel «A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man». This autobiographical novel differs from other novels by its intricately complex structure and form.

A writer selects the protagonist of his literary works according to his conception, by showing space, time, environment, and family condition of his protagonist. The word "conception" is derived from the Latin words "conceptio", "conceptionem" which means "idea" and "understanding". For instance, Uzbek writer Kh. Tukhtaboyev revealed the psychology of teenagers in his literary works. Kh. Tukhtaboyev wanted to expose the corruption in society in the second half of the twentieth century. The tragic life of Uzbek family was delineated in his novel «Sad Eyes».

### **Literature review**

One of the representatives of Critical Realism was Ch. Dickens who was the first to write about children in English literature. Ch. Dickens focused on the motives of orphanhood and adventure in his novel «Oliver Twist». The writer revealed the mental state of the protagonist, who endured hardships in his life. The plot contains with the tragic events in the life of the protagonist which plays a crucial role in the upbringing of children and teenagers. Due to economic crisis in England the number of poor families increased during the Industrial Revolution, and no measures were taken to support the poor. Ch. Dickens delineated how psychology and personality of a young boy evolved in society.



The writer described orphan and poor children who worked in workhouses for a piece of bread and shelter in 1830. He exposed arrogant, lazy, greedy labor house owners like Mr. Bumble and Mrs. Mann who exploited poor children for their own benefits.

A novel which is written in Bildungsroman genre shows the gradual psychological and moral enhancement of protagonists from childhood into adulthood to provide the spiritual growth of the protagonists. The term "Bildungsroman" has been used in English literature. The word is taken from German "bildung" means "education", "roman" means "novel for education" or "a novel of formation". The term was firstly used in 1819 by German philologist Karl Morgenstern during his university lectures. Ch. Dickens' «David Copperfield», «Great Expectation», James Joyce's «A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man», Charlotte Bronte's «Jane Eyre» are considered to be Bildungsroman novels.

### **Analysis**

A writer focuses on the continuous, gradual change of the psychology of his protagonists by ameliorating literary Bildungsroman novels. The thoughts, actions, and interactions of protagonists with other characters can be gradually changed in Bildungsroman novels. The writer tries to show the process of changing psychology of protagonists as if it were naturally occurring in real life. The following poetic changes can be noticed in Bildungsroman novels:

A writer intends to create opportunities for a protagonist to become an ideal person. For instance, the protagonist Pip became an educated person because of other characters (Abel Magwitch) helping him in the novel «Great Expectations» by Ch. Dickens. A prominent Uzbek poet Alisher Navoi explained the term of "an ideal person" in his works. Navoi's works play an important role in the spiritual development of young generation. He delineated how a person becomes an ideal person if he respects elders and he never stops acquiring knowledge; an ideal person shows good manners to people and he avoids from evil.

A writer puts various obstacles and hurdles for his protagonists to prepare them for real life. For instance, Oliver Twist overcame obstacles to succeed in his life in «Oliver Twist» by Ch. Dickens.

Travelling gives opportunities for a protagonist to broaden his outlook and gain experiences about life. He will be ready for any hardships facing him. David Copperfield escaped from the humiliation of his stepfather and he walked a long way to find his aunt, Miss Betsey Trotwood, who helped him to become an intelligent person in his future in «David Copperfield» by Ch. Dickens.

Uzbek writer Kh. Tukhtaboyev's protagonist Hashimjon became invisible because of wearing his magic cap and the main hero learnt a lot about life through many adventures in the novel «Riding the Yellow Giant».



Conflicts and disagreements - sometimes a main hero of literary works makes mistakes which leads him to open a new page in his life. Oliver Twist's conflicts with Noah Claypole forced him to leave Sowerberry's house and to start a new life. The artistic aspect the author's work is determined by the desire of a protagonist to become a mature or an ideal person.

«A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man» by James Joyce can be introduced as illustration to a Bildungsroman novel. It belongs to the semi-autobiographical type of novel either, James Joyce represents himself as “A Portrait of the Artist”; there are some similarities with the writer's life in the novel. The writer described the fate of his protagonist. Some of the events of the novel were delineated as semi-autobiographical novels because they partially fit with the writer's life. The protagonist's childhood to adulthood was described in the novel. It's crucial to analyze the following factors when exploring Stephen's world of spiritual enhancement.

### **1. The intellectual enhancement of Stephen Dedalus**

Realizing and feeling injustice the protagonist started to struggle for his own rights. The school inspector beat Stephen in disbelief that he was illiterate enough because his glasses had been broken. It provides evidence that the child complained to the principal of the school about the injustice and it was confirmed that the child was gradually ameliorating cognitively. «It was unfair, it was cruel because the doctor forbade him to study without glasses, and that morning he wrote a letter to his father asking them to send him glasses. Mr. Arnoll also said that “You cannot write until your family sent you glasses”. Even then, he was insulted and beaten in front of the whole class, as if he was always the first or second student in the class. He was the leader of the Yorks. Why did the inspector call him a swindler? » [1, 29]

### **2. The spiritual and moral growth of Stephen Dedalus**

The spiritual and moral growth of Stephen Dedalus coincided with the process of his transition from childhood to adolescence. Stephen's interest in literature grew and he began to write poems. Consequently, he fell-in love with a girl by name Emma and he started to write her letters.

«The fiery red-hot heart of this virgin was a stubborn, mysterious-magical heart: it was not noticed by the nose, nor was it perceived, the eternal mysterious-magical and stubborn heart. And the people of the angels, intoxicated by this crimson light, fall from the blue mountain.

Are you tired in the hot rays?

Has the magic got the soul?

Sleep, I remember, the days are magical.

Lines from the depths of his perception poured into his lips, and as he whispered them, he felt how the tone of the villanelle appeared. Transparent light illuminated the



rhymes: in the rays of magic eyes. The blazing fire illuminated the world, igniting the hearts of men and angels with the stubborn heart of a virgin with a rose flame». [1,125]

### **3. The sublimity of the inner spiritual world of Stephen Dedalus**

The inner spiritual world of the protagonist was reflected in his inner monologue. James Joyce used a modernistic style to increase the novel's value. Recognizing and feeling the sins of the protagonist and confessing them to the priest was the first step in his spiritual ascension. His spirit was suffering from the sins he had committed. He was ready to endure all hardships in order to release his soul from suffering.

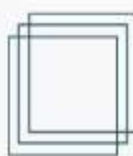
«He [Stephen] knelt in a dark corner and began to recite a prayer of repentance, the prayer ascending from his calm heart like the fragrant neck of a white rose. The mud streets seemed to light up. As he walked down the street, he felt an unfathomable joy in his presence, giving his body a bird-like relief. He conquered himself, repented, and God forgave him. His soul became pure and holy, holy and happy again. » [1, 84]

Stephen Dedalus managed to control the lust in his heart. He also tried to weaken his ability of tasting. He would be spiritually purified without thinking about food. As a result, a desire to become a priest arose in his heart.

«Gradually, as his heart shone with the light of spiritual knowledge, the world became a great reflection of divine power and love in his eyes. Life became a gift from God. And for every moment of his joy, even for the twinkling of a leaf on a tree branch - he should thank the creator of his heart. In his view, the universe, with all its clear clarity and all its complexity, consisted of divine power, love, and the law of omnipotence. He realized that this sense of divine nature, gifted to his heart, it was unequivocal that he could hardly understand why it was necessary for him to continue living. But perhaps his life was part of a path predetermined by God, and it was wrong of him to question the essence of it after committing so many heinous and awful sins. » [1, 86]

Stephen tried to clear his conscience, which was shrouded in despair in his inner spiritual world. His decision to purify himself from his sins and to become a priest was the second step to be a spiritually mature man. Moreover, his simple way of thinking had extremely become complex lately. He moved away from the social environment and he found his proper place in society as an independent person. It was as if his fantasy world was calling him to another world. James Joyce delineated this state of the protagonist with his great artistic skill.

«Feeling exhausted, he closed his eyes with a desire to take a nap, and his cheeks began to fly as he felt the power of the Earth and its guardians, as if he felt the strange influence of some new, mysterious world. His soul sank and he began to dive into a new, strange fantasy world, an invisible dark world, a world like the depths of the sea, where terrifying creatures and majestic shadows creep. Is the world a flickering light or a flower? The world flickered and flickered drowning. » [1, 99]



Stephen Dedalus read the works of Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas with a great interest, refraining himself from hanging out his time with his friends. It was as if the world around him would not utter a word that it seemed to have disappeared from his sight forever. The writer completed writing the novel by describing the protagonist's leaving Ireland; Dedalus was about going to Paris to start a new life there. Consequently, having a great desire to become an impeccable person, the main hero was ready to travel to faraway places to achieve his goals in life.

### **Discussion**

Another prominent English writer Roald Dahl wrote his novel «Matilda» before his death. The writer described little girl's life; the protagonist of the novel was a young girl by name Matilda. The following facts show psychological and personal growth of the protagonist and how her heroism influenced on the other characters in the novel:

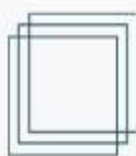
#### **1. The protagonist's recognition of real world.**

It is crucial to confirm the sentiments about how the protagonist evolved inner psychology in the novel «Matilda». Matilda started to comprehend the world when she was three years old. She finished reading all the newspapers in her house and then she read her mother's culinary books. When she had finished reading all the books in her house, she began to attend a large public library in the city. She took pleasure out of reading books in the library and she explored real world by reading books a lot. She told the librarian that she liked Ernest Hemingway's works very much. Her eyes flashed when she explained to the librarian that the writer Ernest Hemingway depicted the events of his works as if they were really happening in real life, and it seemed to Matilda that she were the participant of those events. Finally, the librarian allowed the girl to read the books at home. Matilda read the books from the public library being in her room and she discovered her own image for herself. The girl ameliorated her outlook by reading and she realized what real life was.

#### **2. The protagonist's fighting against evil and injustice**

The emerging of the protagonist's sense of struggle against injustice and evil started when her parents did not pay attention to her feelings; moreover, they had a very bad attitude towards Matilda's interests and skills. Her parent's arrogant attitude had a great impact on her spirit. Feeling pity for her father's making money fraudulently in the car business, she tried to prevent her father from these vicious aims. Matilda bravely commenced to fight against evil and injustice by punishing her own father. She stuck glue on her father's hat; it proved that Matilda struggled against dissimulation and fraud. Matilda slightly won all the conflicts with her family. The writer delineated Matilda as courageous as an adult when she asked her father to send her to school to study.

#### **3. The protagonist's strength of will**



The protagonist was able to show the strength of will by being a tolerable and patient girl. Matilda's father forced her to watch TV when she was reading books. Suddenly, he tore up all her books. The girl was afraid of her father and she told him that the books were taken from the public library. She could burst into floods of tears like other crybaby girls, but she knew very well that nothing could be achieved through her tears. «Most children in Matilda's place would have burst into floods of tears. She didn't do this. She sat there very still and white and thoughtful. She seemed to know that neither crying nor sulking ever got anyone anywhere. The only sensible thing to do when you are attacked is, as Napoleon once said, to counter-attack. Matilda's wonderfully subtle mind was already at work devising yet another suitable punishment for the poisonous parent. » [20]

#### **4. Positive and negative attitude of the protagonist to other characters**

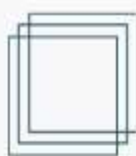
The protagonist - Matilda's positive attitude towards other characters can be noticed when she feels her close intimacy with her school teacher, Miss Honey. The writer managed to portray Miss Honey who became a close friend of the protagonist; she was a mild, quiet person with perfect qualities.

«Miss Jennifer Honey was a mild and quiet person who never raised her voice and was seldom seen to smile, but there is no doubt she possessed that rare gift for being adored by every small child under her care. She seemed to understand totally the bewilderment and fear that so often overwhelms young children who for the first time in their lives are herded into a classroom and told to obey orders. Some curious warmth that was almost tangible shone out of Miss Honey's face when she spoke to a confused and homesick newcomer to the class. » [35]

Matilda's negative attitude towards the school principal Miss Trunchbull

The school principal, Miss Trunchbull was portrayed as a very wicked person in the novel. Miss Trunchbull was a cruel, gigantic, fierce tyrannical monster who frightened pupils and other teachers at school. She marched like a rude soldier. Everybody was afraid of her; she punished the schoolchildren by keeping them in a dark room for a long time. Miss Honey's aunt Miss Trunchbull's had confiscated all her niece's property. Matilda was going to help her kind teacher Miss Honey to get all her property back; she used her supernatural ability to aid her teacher. She made a plan in her mind, how to punish and return the property of Miss Honey. However, firstly, she realized that she had to learn how to use her supernatural power in this case. Her supernatural strength was the power in her eyes, and she used to test practically her ability to move everything from its place in the room. After practicing a lot to move things, the girl finally achieved her goals. Matilda learned to move objects with her eyes' power. Using her extraordinary ability, she was able to punish the wicked and cruel Miss Trunchbull.

Children are inspired by reading the novel «Matilda» by Roald Dahl which represents the protagonist's courage struggling against evil. Social issues could easily be solved in society, if there were braver and fearless girls like Matilda in our society,



Russian writer Maxim Gorky's novel "Childhood" is considered to be an autobiographical novel which was devoted to his childhood memories. M. Gorky's "Childhood" was written in 1913. The writer started to write events of the novel by describing the death of the protagonist Alexey's father. The boy childishly still did not understand that he had lost his father. The following example can show how Alexey's mother was in grief after the death of her husband.

"My mother crushes my heart; her tears, kindled a new anxious feeling in my heart. It was the first time I had seen my mother in such a state; She used to be very self-possessed, talkative, uncluttered, tidy, and strong. [2,5]

The protagonist Alexey described his father's death memories of how he felt distressed in a secluded corner of the cemetery on a rainy day:

"One of my memories is a rainy day in a secluded corner of the cemetery; I stare at the pit where my father's coffin was placed on a slippery mound of sticky dirt; frogs can be seen at the bottom of the pit, two of which have already climbed to the yellow lid of the coffin." [2,7]

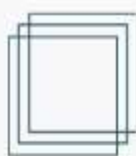
The writer enriched his imagination by describing of his grandmother's positive qualities in his childhood memories. The writer expressed his impressions with his sincere words through the language of young Alyosha:

«My grandmother used to tell stories slowly, leaning mysteriously towards me and staring into my sharp eyes, it seemed as if her wide eyes were healing my heart, boosting my mood. Her words sounded like songs, and as she spoke, her words became more and more smooth and fluent. Anyone who heard her stories would enjoy it. I listened and said, "Tell them again!" - please. » [2,15]

After the death of Alexey's father, Alyosha's mother supported him and she used to protect him from people. Alyosha with her mother Varvara moved to his grandparents' house. His grandfather was the head of a large factory and he was engaged in dyeing fabrics.

The impact of the ambience in the house of the protagonist's grandfather Alexey's cruel, rude uncles who were ready to do everything for wealth, who used to struggle for their father's property had a great negative impact on the boy's psychology. Alexey was beaten severely for dyeing the fabric without his grandfather's permission, which was the beginning of "The Hardest Days" in the protagonist's life. From that time Alexey began to feel humiliation and suffering in his life.

«My grandfather beat me until I lost consciousness. After that, I lay sick for a few days in a small, one-window house in a large, warm place. In the corner of his net, on a shelf with a few icons, was a red light that never went out. My sick days were the most difficult moments of my life. In the meantime, I must have grown a lot, I felt something in my heart. From those days I felt a sense of worry and care for people, as if the veil of my heart was torn, my heart became indescribably sensitive not only to my own pain, but also to the pain of others. » [2,34]



The writer M. Gorky described how Alexey was gradually evolving as an independent teenager in his life.

### **Conclusion**

A clever neat, gifted girl Matilda was an ideal prototype of English writer Roald Dahl who struggled against injustice and evil. Roald Dahl managed to portray the image of Matilda in the novel «Matilda» as the perfect embodiment of children's imagination. Every child feels a deep affection for Matilda who showed her courage in fighting against evil and injustice. The main idea of the writer was to create an ideal person for children. If there were braver and fearless girls like Matilda; it would have had a huge impact on the development of society.

The English writer Ch. Dickens, who lived in the Era of Critical Realism, described real life events in the nineteenth-century in England in his novel «Oliver Twist». Ch. Dickens aimed to portray social issues in society. The author's goal was to ensure that although being poor and helpless, orphan children could gain success due to their strong efforts. Ch. Dickens main idea was to show that good always triumphs over evil. He formed happy future for his protagonist Oliver Twist. Main heroes travelled to distant places in order to ameliorate their outlook about life. Protagonists in literary works endured hardships and they achieved their goals in their future.

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