

GENESIS OF THE ROAD MOTIF: EXPLORING ITS ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION IN LITERATURE

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YO‘L MOTIVI GENEZISI: ADABIYOTDA UNING KELIB CHIQISHI VA EVOLUTSIYASINI O‘RGANISH

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ГЕНЕЗИС МОТИВА ДОРОГИ: ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ ЕГО ИСТОКОВ И ЭВОЛЮЦИИ В ЛИТЕРАТУРЕ

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Abstract: This article investigates the roots of the road motif in literature, tracking its history and studying its change throughout time. The article's findings can enhance literary researches and assist comprehension of literary works well.

Keywords: road motif, literature, origins, evolution, symbolism, genesis, self-realization, recurrent event.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola adabiyotdagi yo‘l motivining ildizlarini o‘rganadi, uning tarixini kuzatib boradi va vaqt davomida o‘zgarishini o‘rganadi. Maqolaning topilmalari adabiy tadqiqotlarni kuchaytirishi va adabiy asarlarni yaxshi tushunishga yordam berishi mumkin.

Kalit so‘zlar: yo‘l motivi, adabiyot, kelib chiqish, evolyutsiya, simbolizm, genезis, o‘z-o‘zini anglash, takroriy hodisa.

Аннотация: В данной статье исследуются корни мотива дороги в литературе, отслеживается ее история и изучаются ее изменения во времени. Результаты статьи могут расширить литературные исследования и помочь лучше понять литературные произведения.

Ключевые слова: мотив дороги, литература, истоки, эволюция, символика, генезис, самореализация, повторяющееся событие.

INTRODUCTION. The road motif has held a significant place in literature across various periods and cultures. This article aims to investigate the genesis of the road motif, exploring its origins and tracing its evolution in storytelling. By examining the cultural, social, and psychological factors that influenced its emergence, this study sheds light on the symbolism and enduring appeal of the road motif in literature. The road motif emerged as a powerful symbol of freedom, self-discovery, and

societal change. Through an analysis of key literary works, this study explores how authors utilized the road as a metaphorical and narrative device to capture the spirit of the literary environment, depict characters' journeys of self-realization, and reflect societal and environmental transformations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS. In literature, a motif is a recurrent event or a brief segment of a narrative with distinct meaning. Wilhelm Scherer, a German philologist, presents

the purpose as an extra, integral part of the text. Because motifs are derived from human conduct, Scherer saw the motif as an anthropological phenomena and concluded that "the general doctrine of motifs is a kind of morality," but Veselovsky saw the motif as the "simplest" tale unit and plot component [5].

In Russian literature, in the works of N.A. Dobrolyubov and D.I. Pisarev's motive is defined as an element of content with a sign of repetition, which determines the objective logic of plot development in work. The first experiment in the scientific study of motives was "Поэтика сюжетов" ("The Poetics of Plots") by A.N. Veselovsky (1897-1906).

Before examining the genesis of the road motif, let's briefly touch on the dictionary meaning of the word "genesis". The word genesis comes from the Greek "genesis" which means birth, creation, origin. In its most general sense, the term "genesis" refers to the origin or beginning of something [7].

Roads are common motifs that involve physical or metaphorical journeys undertaken by characters. These motifs represent personal growth, self-discovery, and the pursuit of a goal or truth. They often involve challenges, obstacles, and transformation along the way [4].

The motif of the road has been widely discussed by literary scholars in a theoretical aspect, and the famous American mythologist and writer Joseph Campbell introduced the hero's journey in his work "A Hero with a Thousand Faces" [2]. The Canadian writer Northrop Frye in his work called "Anatomy of Criticism" focuses on the motive of the road and recognizes the road and the journey as a common motif [3]. In this work, the scientist ensures that the travel plot serves as a metaphorical stylistic technique for construction, personal and spiritual technique. Gaston Bachelard explores paths and symbolism in his work "The poetics of space". He proved that the concept of the road is a metaphorical journey in the work of art [1].

In Uzbek literature, travel-type works based on the road motif began to be created at the beginning of the 20th century. Such works

are built on the basis of artistic texture. Cholpon, one of the Uzbek enlightened writers, addressed the theme of travel in his works. His short story "Doctor Muhammadiyor", "Among the Ruins" and "Memories of the Road" are among them. Mahmudhoja Behbudi describes the description, people, nation, lifestyle, clothing culture, customs of the country he visited and other ethnographic events in the work "Qasdi safar" belonging to the genre of road essays [6].

In order to investigate the origins of the road motif, this study takes a qualitative method, fusing literary analysis with historical investigation. The early occurrences of the road theme and its subsequent development in literature will be identified through a critical examination of a number of important literary works, including modern novels, medieval stories, and ancient epics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. The road motif dates back to ancient literature, when it frequently represented journeys, adventures, and rites of passage. In Homer's "The Odyssey", the hero Odysseus sets out on a lengthy voyage home, meeting several hardships and hurdles along the way. The road in this epic poem depicts the protagonist's spiritual and psychological growth, as well as physical journey.

Similar to this, in classic Chinese literature like "The Journey to the West", the protagonist's spiritual journey toward enlightenment and self-discovery is symbolized by the road. These early images solidified the road's status as a powerful symbol of journey, self-discovery, and transformation in literature.

Travel narratives and voyage stories from the Age of Exploration helped to shape the road motif. Works like Marco Polo's "Travels" and Ibn Battuta's "Rihla" show the road as a way of discovery, experiencing other civilizations, and broadening geographical and cultural perspectives. The road becomes a symbol of exploration, curiosity, and encounters with the unfamiliar.

During the medieval period, pilgrimage narratives and chivalric romances further

popularized the road motif. Works like Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" and Thomas Malory's "Le Morte d'Arthur" depict characters embarking on journeys along roads and trails, seeking spiritual redemption or pursuing noble quests. The road becomes a metaphorical path towards enlightenment, moral growth, and the fulfillment of destiny.

In "Gulliver's Travels," Voltaire's *Candide*, and Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels," the road becomes a metaphor for the pursuit of knowledge, challenging traditional beliefs and inviting critical inquiry. With the advent of the Enlightenment, the road gained new significance as a symbol of progress and rationality, and it is used to satirize societal norms and critique human folly.

In literature that represents social and political change, the road theme takes on new significance. In works like Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" and Naguib Mahfouz's "The Cairo Trilogy," the road signifies the shifting landscapes of revolution, turmoil, and societal transition. Characters travel the path of change, meeting challenges and reinventing their identities.

The road metaphor became profoundly established in American literature as the frontier expanded. Works such as Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and Jack London's "The Call of the Wild" feature characters traveling along rivers, trails, and open highways, evoking the spirit of freedom, discovery, and self-reliance. The road represents freedom from social restraints and the desire for independence.

In later decades, the road theme became associated with environmental concerns. Authors like Cormac McCarthy in "The Road" and Edward Abbey in "Desert Solitaire" used the road as a backdrop to examine the relationship between humans and nature, the effects of industrialization, and the possibility of ecological destruction as the effects of human activity on the environment became more apparent.

The road motif became a potent representation of liberation and a way out of the confines of traditional life. Writers such as Jack Kerouac in "On the Road" and John Steinbeck in "The Grapes of Wrath" portrayed individuals who took road trips in search of escape from social conventions and adventure into worlds beyond their local surroundings. The road came to symbolize the aspiration for adventure, a better life, and a diversion from the monotony of daily existence.

The road motif also serves as a metaphor for human growth and self-discovery. The characters went on physical travels that matched their inner aspirations for identity and meaning. In Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man," the protagonist navigates a fractured America, looking for his place in a society fraught with racial tensions. The route becomes a conduit for self-realization, with the man confronting both external and psychological difficulties before discovering his actual nature.

Beyond its metaphorical significance, the road motif was a flexible literary device. Authors used physical journeys to organize stories, generating a sense of tension, adventure, and expectation. From John Steinbeck's legendary road trip in "Travels with Charley" to Tom Wolfe's cross-country adventure in "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test," the road became a literary canvas on which authors created colorful vistas, interactions, and experiences.

The road motif in twentieth-century American literature frequently reflected society's shifting landscapes. As America saw significant urbanization and technical developments, writers traveled the country to investigate the consequences of progress on individuals and communities. F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" depicts the glossy and disastrous appeal of the American Dream, with individuals traveling through the luxurious highways of the Jazz Age, only to discover disappointment and moral rot at the end.

CONCLUSION. The road motif in global literature has profound cultural and

symbolic value, representing universal issues as well as the human search for purpose and self-discovery. Whether in ancient epics, classical literature, trip narratives, or modern novels, the road represents the individual's and society's journey, encounters with the unknown, and the transforming force of discovery. The road motif crosses cultural barriers, providing readers with a common experience while also reflecting on their own trips. Understanding its origins and history provides insights into how literature captures and explores the human experience. Further investigation into individual cultural traditions and geographical variances might help us better grasp the road motif's rich tapestry across world literature.

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