

**THE THEME OF INFERTILITY IN THE
DYSTOPIAN NOVELS THE CHILDREN OF MEN****Murotaliyeva Maftuna Shukurulloevna**

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**ТЕМА БЕСПЛОДИЯ В РОМАНАХ-
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Annotation: This article is concerned with the theme of infertility in the dystopian novels “The Children of Men” by P.D. James. It focuses mainly on the impact of infertility on society and the significant aspects related to this phenomenon. This article briefly explores the genre of dystopian fiction, specifically the dystopian fertility fiction of the 20th century, its characteristic features and contemporary trends, and the widespread issue of rising infertility rates amongst society. It also delves into the authors' inspiration behind the novels and their perspectives on modern civilization.

Key words: dystopian novel, fiction, infertility, children, totalitarian regime, religion.

Аннотация: В этой статье рассматривается тема бесплодия в антиутопических романах “The Children of Men” П.Д.Джеймса. Основное внимание уделяется влиянию бесплодия на общество и важным аспектам, связанным с этим явлением. В этой статье кратко рассматривается жанр антиутопической литературы, в частности антиутопическая литература о плодородии 20-го века, ее характерные черты и современные тенденции, а также широко распространенная проблема роста уровня бесплодия в обществе. В ней также рассматриваются источники вдохновения авторов романов и их взгляды на современную цивилизацию.

Ключевые слова: дистопический роман, фантастика, бесплодие, дети, тоталитарный режим, религия.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola P.D. Jeymnsning «The Children of Men» (Inson farzandi) distopik romanidagi bepushtlik mavzusiga bag'ishlangan. Maqola asosan bepushtlikning jamiyatga ta'sirini va bu hodisaga oid muhim jihatlarni o'rganadi. Ushbu maqolada distopik adabiyotning janri, xususan, XX asr distopik bepushtlik romanlarining xususiyatlari, zamonaviy tendensiyalar va jamiyatda bepushtlik darajasining oshishi masalasi qisqacha ko'rib chiqiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: distopik roman, badiiy adabiyot, bepushtlik, bolalar, totalitar rejim, din.

INTRODUCTION (ВВЕДЕНИЕ/KIRISH).

The relatively new genre of dystopian fiction emerged in the mid-20th century with the goal of highlighting various social, political, and religious shifts in contemporary society. It seeks to warn

readers about potential threats that could jeopardize the stability and peace of the world.

This article aims to examine the theme of infertility in the dystopian novels and *The Children of Men* by P.D. James. This novel explores fictional societies that have undergone significant

transformations due to the abrupt onset of infertility, which has led to various changes within this dystopian world.

The article provides a brief description of the genre of dystopian fiction with a focus on its development, characteristic elements and its recent focus and trends. It specifically explores the sub-genre of feminist dystopias in relation to the feminism of the 20th century and also the dystopian fertility fiction which became popular due to the concerning fluctuation in birth-rates during the recent decades. The theoretical part also focuses on the two authors of the dystopian novels, namely on the inspiration behind their work and their opinions on the global threat of infertility.

MATERIALS AND METHODS (ЛИТЕРАТУРА И МЕТОД/ADABIYOTLAR TAHLILI VA METODLAR). Soo Darcy work *“Power, Surveillance and Reproductive Technology in P.D. James ‘The Children of Men’ there is discussed mainly in ‘Juxtaposition’ and ‘Characterization’ of characters* [4]. In this research character responses to the issue of infertility were constructed by the authors through the use of indirect and direct characterization as well as juxtaposition between the groups. The key groups outlined throughout the book all relate to the primary issue, infertility, in various ways and with similar importance.

Another researcher Veronika Dobrovodska did her research to compare *“The Children of Men”* by P.D. James and *“Handmaid’s Tales”* by Margaret Atwood both novels are dystopian, and their central theme is infertility; however, in *“Handmaid’s Tales”* there is hope, in *“Children of Men”* there is no chance. Firstly, the researcher gave information about dystopia and feminism. feminism concerned with the effects of infertility on society and the important issues connected to this phenomenon.

Next researcher Emrah Atasay in his article *“Quest for Utopian Impulse, in twentieth-century Dystopian Narrative: P.D. James’s critical dystopia ‘The Children of Men’* [1] stated that dystopia and its characteristics it is not wrong to assert that dystopian fiction highlights a correlation between the fictional world and the real world due to its characteristic as a warning to the society. These literary dystopias cast insight into the actuality of the real world since they are almost always inspired by

real societies, which become inspirational sources for the production of these texts.

This article utilizes methods of analysis, synthesis, and comparison, which are applied in the field of literary studies.

DISCUSSION

(ОБСУЖДЕНИЕ/МУХОКАМА). Theo describes how in the 20th century the modern society began to heavily rely on science and medicine that could presumably provide an answer to all problems. «Western science has been our god» [2]. However, it failed to clarify the issue of the utmost importance- why are the women suddenly unable to get pregnant? After years and years of research, the world gradually lost hope and realized that even the modern science cannot solve everything. «For all our knowledge, our intelligence, our power, we can no longer do what the animals do without thought» [2]. Although it seemed as if the male sperm lost its potency overnight, the dystopian world already showed signs in the 1990s that the childbirth rate was dropping drastically all over the world. At that time, however, it was viewed by many as a positive phenomenon that was helping to regulate the population. «We were polluting the planet with our numbers; if we were breeding less, it was to be welcomed» [2].

The reasons stated for the gradual decrease in the reproductive numbers are «a more liberal attitude to birth control and abortion, the postponement of pregnancy by professional women pursuing their careers, the wish of families for a higher standard of living». Now in the actual year of 2024, the readers can observe that James aptly chose to bring attention to very timely topics that are currently even more pressing than they were in the 1990s. The imagined year Omega, when the last child came into the world, is James’ foreboding prediction of the ultimate beginning of an end. She elevated the situation into extremes and introduced a «divine intervention» with the only possible explanation being that «the old gods reappeared, terrible in their power» to deliver the final blow. A significant innovation in the dystopian England that is worth mentioning is the implementation of a regular semen testing and female examinations. This is under the pretext of making sure that if there was a fertile person, they would be discovered by the state. The Warden would then choose the most eligible subjects according to his views: «No one with a criminal record or a family

record of offending ought to be allowed to breed, if we have a 33choice» [2].

RESULTS (РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ/НАТИЖАЛАР).

This is regarded as highly controversial by many, including Julian and the group of dissidents called the Five Fishes. They are against the way the Warden is trying to use modern science to try to control the human body and the process of natural reproduction. The story further delves into the aftermath of the Omega. Throughout many years of futile research, the entire population accordingly changed its way of thinking. Society without children is viewed as a society without a future and with the disappearance of all hope in posterity, people find it difficult to assign a meaning to their existence. Most of the everyday activities seem to have lost their meaning and the population fall into depression. That's when the new Warden of England comes in and implements new rules to obtain some sense of normalcy and stability. He cannot promise to find a cure for infertility, but he appears to have the power to allow the people to spend the rest of their lives in comfort.

CONCLUSION (ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ/XULOSA).

“The Children of Men” by well-known author Phyllis Dorothy James has been analyzed in this article. The research and analysis part provides an insight into the world of dystopias, especially dystopian fertility fiction revolving around the impact of infertility on society.

The Children of Men presents a more extreme perspective, offering readers a dystopian world where children no longer exist, and society is grappling to maintain fundamental morals and

values.. The incurable mass infertility left the people with a feeling of hopelessness and resignation since the notion of posterity dissolved and there seems to be no reason for the majority of the people to fight for their rights. The totalitarian regime which emerged as a result of the outbreak of infertility was in some ways met with a positive reactionsince its radicalism promises to exchange democracy for the stability and fulfilment of basic needs. This novel are also pointing out the social and ecological threats on infertility, such as excessive use of contraception, delay of pregnancy due to a career-oriented goals. James shows a great deal of interest in the topic of global infertility, and they use their works to illustrate the dangers of social indifference towards the prevention of the threatening issue.

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