

THE IMPACT OF RELIGIOUS LEXICOLOGY ON MODERN ENGLISH LITERATURE

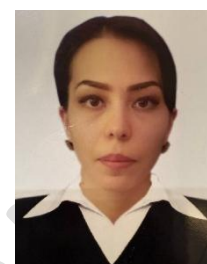
*Sadriddinzoda Safiya Shaxobiddinovna, Doctoral student (DSc)
of SamSIFL*

DINIY LEKSIKOLOGIYANING ZAMONAVIY INGLIZ ADABIYOTIGA TA'SIRI

*Sadriddinzoda Safiya Shahobiddinovna, SamDCHTI
doktoranti (DSc)*

ВЛИЯНИЕ РЕЛИГИОЗНОЙ ЛЕКСИКОЛОГИИ НА СОВРЕМЕННУЮ АНГЛИЙСКУЮ ЛИТЕРАТУРУ

*Садриддинзода Сафия Шахобиддиновна, докторант (DSc)
СамГИФЛ*



<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0305-6953>
e-mail:
safiyaadriddinzoda@mail.ru

Abstract: This article explores the influence of religious lexicology, particularly Christian, biblical, and theological vocabulary, on contemporary English literature. Through the analysis of selected literary works of the 20th-21st centuries, the study shows that religious language continues to shape themes, symbolism, and narrative style in modern writing. In the study, both qualitative and comparative methods were used to illuminate the lexical continuity between religious texts and modern literary forms. The results show that even in secular contexts, religious vocabulary remains a powerful tool for writers seeking moral depth, cultural information, or spiritual contemplation.

Keywords: Religious lexicology, modern English literature, Biblical language, symbolism, literary analysis, theology in literature.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada diniy leksikologiyaning, xususan, nasroniy, Injil va ilohiyot lug'atining zamonaviy ingliz adabiyotiga ta'siri o'rganiladi. XX-XXI asrlarga oid tanlangan adabiy asarlarni tahlil qilish orqali tadqiqot zamonaviy yozuvda diniy til mavzular, ramziylik va hikoya uslubini shakllantirishda davom etayotganini ko'rsatadi. Tadqiqotda diniy matnlar va zamonaviy adabiy shakllar o'rtasidagi leksik vorisiylikni yoritishda ham sifat, ham qiyosiy usullardan foydalanilgan. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, hatto dunyoviy kontekstlarda ham diniy leksika axloqiy teranlik, madaniy ma'lumot yoki ruhiy mushohada izlovchi yozuvchilar uchun kuchli vosita sifatida saqlanib qolmoqda.

Kalit so'zlar: diniy leksikologiya, zamonaviy ingliz adabiyoti, Injil tili, ramziylik, adabiy tahlil, adabiyotda ilohiyot.

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматривается влияние религиозной лексикологии – в частности, христианской, библейской и теологической лексики на современную английскую литературу. Анализируя отобранные литературные произведения XX и XXI веков, исследование демонстрирует, как религиозный язык продолжает формировать темы, символизм и повествовательный стиль в современной письменности. Результаты показывают, что даже в светских контекстах религиозная лексика сохраняется как мощный инструмент для писателей, ищущих нравственной глубины, культурной ориентации или духовного самоанализа.

Ключевые слова: религиозная лексикология, современная английская литература, библейский язык, символизм, литературный анализ, теология в литературе.

INTRODUCTION. Religious texts, in particular the Bible, have long been the foundation of the English literary tradition. Religious lexicology refers to specific vocabulary and

language patterns derived from religious teachings and the holy book. Although modern English literature is often characterized by secularism and diverse ideological views, religious language is at

its core. This article explores how religious vocabulary is influencing contemporary literary works - whether through direct gestures, symbolic language or morals, thematic expressions of salvation and existential exploration. Religious lexicology refers to special dictionaries and phrases derived from religious texts, teachings, rituals, and theological speech.

These words and phrases often carry deep symbolic and cultural meanings, which writers use to explore complex human experiences - such as guilt, liberation, suffering, grace, faith, and transcendence. In contemporary English literature, especially after 1900, writers are increasingly dealing with themes of existential doubt, spiritual crisis, and the disappearance or transformation of religious belief. However, paradoxically, most of these literary explorations are expressed through vocabulary inherited from religious traditions. This contradiction - the fact that secular or even skeptical literature continues to rely on religious vocabulary - demonstrates the eternal power of language tools.

For example, T.S. Eliot's poetry is imbued with religious references, relying on both Christian and Eastern religious traditions to express modern alienation. Similarly, in the novels of Graham Greene and Marilyn Robinson, religious language serves both as a means of narration and as a philosophical basis. Even in dystopian or postmodern literature, such as Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale", religious lexicology is aimed at criticizing institutional power and ideological control. Despite the secularization of many modern literatures, religious language remains a powerful means of expressing moral problems, spiritual longing, and cultural identity. This study examines how religious lexicology shapes contemporary English literature by analyzing specific lexical patterns and their usage across genres and periods. Through this study, the goal is to show that religious language is not just a historical relic, but an active and developing element of literary expression.

METHODS. In this study, a qualitative approach was used, using textual analysis of selected modern literary texts published from 1900 to 2020. The works of such authors as T.S.Eliot, Marilynne Robinson, C.S.Lewis on religious

lexical patterns were analyzed. The methodology includes:

- Identification of religious vocabulary and expressions;
- Contextual analysis of how these terms work within the story;
- Comparison of the use of religious vocabulary by genres (novel, poetry, drama).

Review of secondary sources on religious influence in the literature.

1. Selection of Literary Texts

A purposive sampling method was used to select literary works that:

- Are written in English.
- Were published between 1900 and 2020.
- Contain identifiable religious themes, references, or vocabulary.
- Represent different literary genres (novels, poetry, drama).

2. Lexical Analysis. Religious vocabulary has been compiled, including:

- Biblical references (e.g., Eden, Exodus, Christ);
- Divine terms (e.g., salvation, grace, sin, expiation);
- Archaic forms taken from religious texts (e.g., 'you', 'you', 'truly');
- Ethical and symbolic vocabulary (e.g., light and darkness, sacrifice, divine).

3. Contextual and Thematic Analysis.

Each occurrence of religious vocabulary was analyzed in its literary context, and the following was determined:

- Its function in the story (for example, character creation, symbolism, irony);
- Contributing to the theme, tone, or idea of the work;
- The author's purpose in using religious language (in cases where it is not possible).

RESULTS. The analysis revealed several consistent patterns:

- Frequent use of biblical references (for example, Garden of Eden, Exodus, end times);
- Combining theological concepts such as grace, sin, salvation, and sacrifice;
- Use of religious metaphors and allegories even in non-religious or critical contexts;
- Preservation of archaic religious terms (for example, 'sen', "sen", "shabba") in poetic forms;

- Character development is often based on religious archetypes (for example, the image of Christ, prophet, martyr).

Biblical and theological terms such as “grace”, “expiation”, “sacrifice”, “faith”, “sin” and “salvation” are often used in both traditional and symbolic meanings. In T.S.Eliot’s poetry, for example, religious language occupies a central place in the depiction of spiritual poverty and the striving for renewal, and references to Christian and Eastern religious images serve as the basis for his philosophical reflections. In prose works like Marilynne Robinson’s *Gilead*, religious lexicon is woven into the voice and worldview of the narrator, a pastor, to convey ideas of legacy, forgiveness, and divine presence in everyday life. Even in more secular or critical works, such as Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*, religious terms are repurposed to critique power structures and authoritarian control, showing how religious language can be adapted to different ideological purposes.

DISCUSSION. The results show that religious lexicology continues to enrich modern English literature by providing a common cultural and symbolic basis. Even authors who criticize or reject religious institutions often use religious language to construct their stories. For example, in T. S. Eliot’s work “The Land of Waste”, Christian and Indian literature was used to show the spiritual void. Meanwhile, Marilyn Robinson’s *Gilead* School uses a religious vocabulary to explore the themes of forgiveness and inheritance. This indicates the continuity of the influence of religious thought on literary imagination.

Also, the discussion shows that religious vocabulary is not static, it develops along with literary trends and cultural changes. Terms, once associated with a strict spiritual doctrine, now have several layers of meaning, formed depending on the context in which they are used. For example, the word “mercy” is used in one work in the sense of theology, and in another work in the sense of human kindness or dignity. This variability allows the religious vocabulary to go beyond its original boundaries and enter into broader human experiences such as love, suffering, guilt, identity, and transcendence. Moreover, the frequent

occurrence of religious vocabulary in the works of writers who do not consider themselves religious indicates that such a language is part of a broader literary and cultural vocabulary. Its aesthetic and philosophical value often outweighs its theological implications, especially in poetry and symbolic prose.

CONCLUSION. Religious lexicology remains an important component of modern English literature not only as a historical relic, but also as a living, flexible linguistic source. Writers use it to deal with moral issues, construct their stories, and establish deeper symbolic connections with readers. Future research may focus on the comparative use of religious vocabulary in non-Christian contexts, including Islamic, Hindu, or Buddhist influences in contemporary English literature. In addition, the study showed that religious lexicology developed over time and became more variable and metaphorical. Contemporary authors do not limit themselves to traditional religious frameworks; on the contrary, they use religious language creatively, often in secular or vague contexts. The presence of religious vocabulary in literature by both religious and non-religious authors illustrates that these words have transcended their doctrinal origins to become part of a shared cultural and literary heritage.

In conclusion, religious lexicology remains an important source of literary imagination. Respectfully, whether used in a critical or symbolic sense, it provides writers with a rich vocabulary to answer eternal human questions in the modern world.

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