

TYPOLOGIES OF CHARACTER IN LITERARY STUDIES: THEORY AND PRACTICE

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Abstract. *This article examines the typology of character in literary studies, focusing on its theoretical foundations and practical applications in narrative analysis. It clarifies the distinction between character and personality, outlines major approaches to characterization, and classifies key character types. Particular attention is given to dual character relationships as a central analytical framework. Drawing on examples from American and British literature, the study demonstrates how contrasting character pairings contribute to thematic development and narrative complexity. The findings highlight the importance of character typology in understanding literary texts and their broader cultural and psychological implications.*

Keywords: *characterization, theory of character, typology, dual character relationships.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada adabiyotshunoslikda obraz (personaj) tipologiyasi masalasi ko'rib chiqilib, uning nazariy asoslari va badiiy matnlarni tahlil qilishdagi amaliy qo'llanilishi yoritiladi. Tadqiqotda personaj va shaxs tushunchalari o'rtasidagi farqlar aniqlashtiriladi, xarakter yaratishning asosiy yondashuvlari bayon qilinadi hamda muhim personaj turlari tasniflanadi. Alohida e'tibor ikki qahramon o'rtasidagi munosabatlarga asoslangan dual personajlar tizimiga adabiy tahlilning muhim modeli sifatida qaratiladi. Amerika va ingliz adabiyotidan olingan misollar asosida qarama-qarshi xarakter juftliklari asarning g'oyaviy mazmunini ochish va syujet murakkabligini shakllantirishdagi o'rni ko'rsatib beriladi. Tadqiqot natijalari personajlar tipologiyasi badiiy asarlarni hamda ularning kengroq madaniy va psixologik mazmunini anglashda muhim ahamiyatga ega ekanligini tasdiqlaydi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *xarakter yaratish, personaj nazariyasi, tipologiya, dual personaj munosabatlari.*

Аннотация. *В данной статье рассматривается типология персонажей в литературоведении, её теоретические основы и практическое применение в анализе художественных произведений. Уточняется различие между понятиями персонажа и личности, раскрываются основные подходы к характеристике персонажей и классифицируются их ключевые типы. Особое внимание уделяется дуальным отношениям персонажей как важной аналитической модели литературного исследования. На примерах произведений американской и британской литературы показано, каким образом контрастные пары персонажей способствуют раскрытию тематики произведения и усложнению повествовательной структуры. Результаты исследования подчёркивают значимость типологии персонажей для понимания художественных текстов, а также их более широких культурных и психологических аспектов.*

Ключевые слова: *характеристика персонажей, теория персонажа, типология, дуальные отношения персонажей.*

Introduction. Literature represents the world of human experience, reflecting cultural values, emotions, and intellectual thought. As noted by Spiller (as cited in Nuriadi, 2016), literature serves as a record of human experience, encompassing rationality, imagination, and moral principles. In addition to its reflective function, literature also provides aesthetic pleasure and emotional engagement (Bruto, as cited in Divina, 2004).

Within literary works, especially prose fiction, several intrinsic elements shape the narrative, including theme, plot, setting, and character. Among these, character plays a central role, as it drives the narrative and embodies the thematic concerns of the text.

Therefore, the classification and analysis of characters are essential for understanding literary meaning.

This study aims to explore the typology of character in literary studies, with particular emphasis on dual character relationships. It seeks to answer how character classification functions as an analytical tool and how dual character dynamics contribute to thematic and narrative development in literature.

Methods. This research adopts a qualitative, descriptive-analytical approach based on literary theory. The study relies on: Theoretical analysis of key concepts such as character, personality, and characterization; Typological classification of characters (protagonist, antagonist, dynamic, static, round, flat); Comparative textual analysis of selected works from American and British literature.

Primary examples are drawn from canonical literary texts, including: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne; *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald; *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens; *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.

These texts are analyzed to illustrate how dual character relationships function within different cultural and historical contexts.

Results.

3.1. Concept of Character and Characterization. The study confirms that the term character has a dual meaning: it refers both to a figure in a narrative and to the set of moral and psychological traits attributed to that figure (Nurgiyantoro, 2013). In contrast, personality refers to a more stable and individualized set of traits, making character a broader and more flexible concept in literary analysis.

Characterization is achieved through two primary methods: Direct (telling): explicit description by the author; Indirect (showing): revealed through actions, dialogue, and behavior.

3.2. Typology of Characters. Characters can be classified into several categories: Protagonist and Antagonist – central opposing forces driving the plot; Dynamic and Static Characters – based on the degree of internal change; Round and Flat Characters – based on psychological complexity; Stereotypical Characters – simplified figures serving specific narrative functions. This classification helps identify structural and thematic patterns in literary texts.

3.3. Dual Character Relationships in Literature. The analysis reveals that dual character relationships function as a key mechanism for narrative development.

In American literature: In *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale represent the conflict between public morality and private guilt. In *The Great Gatsby*, Gatsby and Tom Buchanan embody the tension between new wealth and established social power.

In British literature: In *A Tale of Two Cities*, Sydney Carton and Charles Darnay illustrate themes of sacrifice and redemption. In *Frankenstein*, Victor Frankenstein and the Creature explore responsibility, isolation, and human ambition.

These pairings highlight ideological contrasts and deepen thematic interpretation.

Discussion. The findings demonstrate that character typology is not merely a structural tool but also a means of exploring deeper cultural, psychological, and philosophical issues. Dual character relationships, in particular, provide insight into: moral conflict and ethical dilemmas; identity formation and self-perception; social structures and cultural expectations.

By linking theory with textual examples, the study shows how abstract classifications are realized in literary practice. The interaction between contrasting characters allows authors to construct meaning through tension, opposition, and transformation.

Thus, character typology serves as a bridge between literary theory and interpretation, enabling a more nuanced understanding of narrative complexity.

Conclusion. The typological study of character plays a fundamental role in literary analysis by enhancing the understanding of narrative structure and thematic depth. The distinction between character and personality, along with the classification of character types, provides a solid theoretical foundation for literary interpretation.

Furthermore, dual character relationships emerge as a powerful analytical framework, revealing ideological conflicts and cultural meanings embedded in literary texts. Through such relationships, literature reflects the complexities of human experience and social reality.

Therefore, character typology remains an essential tool for literary scholarship, offering valuable insights into both the structure and meaning of literary works.

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