

Shodiyeva Gulira'no

An English language teacher at Jondor District Polytechnic College, Bukhara Region.

A first-year Master's student at Asia International University.

Email: guliranoshodiyeva7@gmail.com

Abstract. This thesis examines the motif of freedom in the novels of Mark Twain, focusing on how the author explores personal, social, and moral freedom through his characters and narratives. Twain presents freedom not only as physical escape but also as liberation from social hypocrisy, racial injustice, and rigid moral norms. By analyzing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, this study demonstrates that freedom is a central value in Twain's literary vision and a key element of his criticism of American society in the nineteenth century.

Keywords: freedom, individuality, slavery, society, satire, Mark Twain

Introduction. Mark Twain is widely recognized as one of the most influential figures in American literature. His works reflect the realities of nineteenth-century American life, combining humor, satire, and deep social criticism. One of the most important and recurring themes in Twain's novels is the motif of freedom. For Twain, freedom is not limited to political independence or physical movement; it includes freedom of thought, moral choice, and personal identity. Living in a society marked by slavery, strict social conventions, and growing industrialization, Twain used literature to question accepted values and expose social injustice. His characters often seek escape from oppressive environments and challenge moral rules imposed by society.

Aim of the Research. The main aim of this thesis is to analyze the motif of freedom in Mark Twain's novels and to determine its role in revealing the author's social criticism and moral philosophy.

Scientific Significance of the Research. The scientific significance of this study lies in its contribution to the literary analysis of Mark Twain's works by focusing on the motif of freedom as a key thematic element. The results of the research may be useful for students,

teachers, and researchers in the fields of American literature, literary theory, and cultural studies. In addition, the thesis can serve as a supplementary material for courses on nineteenth-century American fiction.

Discussion. The analysis of Mark Twain's novels demonstrates that the motif of freedom functions as a complex and multilayered concept rather than a single, fixed idea. Twain presents freedom not only as physical independence or escape from authority, but also as moral awareness and resistance to unjust social norms. This approach allows the author to criticize American society while simultaneously portraying the inner development of his characters. In *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, freedom is closely associated with childhood imagination and rebellion against imposed rules. Tom's desire to avoid school, work, and strict discipline reflects a natural human longing for autonomy. However, Twain does not idealize complete freedom; instead, he suggests that freedom without responsibility can become childish escapism. This balance between independence and social obligation highlights Twain's realistic understanding of human nature. Overall, the discussion reveals that Twain's treatment of freedom is both critical and constructive. He criticizes social systems that limit individual growth, yet he also warns against irresponsible freedom detached from moral values. This dual perspective makes Twain's novels relevant beyond their historical context. The motif of freedom becomes a tool through which Twain encourages readers to reflect on their own moral choices and social responsibilities.

Conclusion. This thesis has examined the motif of freedom in Mark Twain's novels as a central thematic and ideological element of his literary work. As outlined in the introduction, freedom in Twain's writing extends beyond physical independence and reflects broader moral, social, and philosophical concerns of nineteenth-century American society. The discussion demonstrated that in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, freedom is primarily associated with childhood resistance to authority and the desire for personal autonomy. Twain presents this form of freedom as natural but incomplete, suggesting that true independence requires responsibility and moral awareness. In conclusion, Mark Twain's treatment of the motif of freedom reveals his critical attitude toward social hypocrisy and his commitment to humanistic values. His novels suggest that freedom is meaningful only when it is guided by ethical responsibility and compassion. The continued relevance of this motif confirms Twain's importance not only as a literary figure of his time, but also as a writer whose ideas speak to universal and timeless human concerns.

The List of Used Literature

1. Twain, M. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1876.

2. Twain, M. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. New York: Charles L. Webster and Company, 1885.
3. Twain, M. *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. New York: Charles L. Webster and Company, 1889.
4. Kaplan, J. *Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1966.
5. Smith, H. N. *Mark Twain: The Development of a Writer*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1962.
6. Trilling, L. *The Liberal Imagination*. New York: Viking Press, 1950.
7. Railton, S. *Mark Twain: A Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.
8. Fishkin, S. F. *Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.