

**REPRESENTATION OF LITERARY PSYCHOLOGISM IN MURIEL
SPARK'S NOVELS**

M.Z.Djalaldinova,

PhD Doctorate Candidate,

Andijan state institute of foreign languages

Abstract. This study examines the application of literary psychologism in the works of Muriel Spark, focusing on how Spark portrays the inner lives and motivations of her characters. Spark's novels, known for their psychological depth and satirical style, offer nuanced explorations of human nature and consciousness. Through close analysis of key works such as "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," "Memento Mori," "The Driver's Seat," "Loitering with Intent," and "Aiding and Abetting," this paper elucidates Spark's adept use of literary techniques to delve into themes of control, mortality, psychological breakdown, creativity, and identity. By employing literary psychologism, Spark provides profound insights into the complexities of human psychology and the existential dilemmas faced by her characters.

Keywords and phrase: Literary Psychologism, Muriel Spark, character psychology, human Nature, consciousness, inner Lives, motivations, satire, existentialism, identity.

Muriel Spark's novels are exemplary in their use of literary psychologism, offering profound insights into the minds and motivations of her characters. Spark masterfully blends psychological depth with her distinctive wit and satirical style, creating narratives that explore the complexities of human nature and the nuances of individual consciousness. In "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," Spark delves into the psychological intricacies of the titular character, Miss Jean Brodie, a charismatic and unorthodox teacher at an all-girls school in Edinburgh [1]. Miss Brodie's psychological influence over her students, known as the "Brodie set," is a central theme. Spark uses literary psychologism to explore Miss Brodie's motivations, her need for control, and her belief in her own superiority. Manipulative tactics and her ability to mold her students' minds reflect her complex psyche, characterized by a blend of narcissism and idealism. Spark's narrative provides an in-depth look at how Miss Brodie's psychological needs drive her actions, ultimately leading to her

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downfall. The novel's exploration of Miss Brodie's inner world and her impact on her students exemplifies Spark's skill in portraying psychological depth and complexity.

"Memento Mori" is a novel that examines the psychological effects of aging and the ever-present reminder of mortality [2]. The elderly characters in the story each receive mysterious phone calls with the message, "Remember you must die." This recurring reminder forces them to confront their pasts, their fears, and their unresolved conflicts. Spark uses literary psychologism to delve into the characters' responses to these calls, revealing their inner lives and the psychological burdens they carry. The novel's exploration of memory, guilt, and the fear of death highlights Spark's ability to capture the psychological realities of aging. By focusing on the characters' internal experiences, Spark provides a poignant commentary on the human condition and the inevitability of mortality.

"The Driver's Seat," Spark presents a chilling psychological portrait of Lise, a woman who embarks on a journey of self-destruction [3]. The novel's stream of consciousness technique allows readers to experience Lise's fragmented thoughts and deteriorating mental state. Spark's narrative delves into Lise's psyche, exploring her desire for control and her deliberate pursuit of her own death. The psychological depth of Lise's character is central to the novel's impact. Spark's portrayal of Lise's mental breakdown and her interactions with others provides a disturbing yet compelling look at the complexities of the human mind. The novel's intense focus on Lise's internal world exemplifies Spark's mastery of literary psychologism, offering a profound exploration of psychological instability and existential despair.

"Loitering with Intent" is a semi-autobiographical novel that offers insights into the mind of a writer [4]. The protagonist, Fleur Talbot, navigates the literary world while working on her novel. Spark uses literary psychologism to explore Fleur's creative process, her ambitions, and her interactions with the eccentric members of the Autobiographical Association. The novel delves into Fleur's internal experiences as she balances her creative endeavors with the chaotic and often absurd realities of the literary community. Spark's portrayal of Fleur's thoughts, her imaginative flights, and her psychological resilience provides a rich and nuanced depiction of the artist's mind. The novel's exploration of the interplay between reality and fiction underscores Spark's interest in the psychological aspects of creativity and self-expression.

In "Aiding and Abetting," Spark examines the psychological dimensions of deception and dual identity through the characters of Dr. Hildegard Wolf and the

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fugitive Lord Lucan [5]. Dr. Wolf, a fraudulent therapist with a hidden past, and Lord Lucan, a notorious murderer in hiding, engage in a complex psychological dance of manipulation and survival.

Spark uses literary psychologism to explore the dual lives of these characters, revealing their inner conflicts and motivations. The novel's shifting perspectives and intricate plot reflect the psychological intricacies of deception and identity. Spark's focus on the characters' internal worlds provides a deep and compelling look at how individuals navigate their constructed realities and the psychological costs of living a lie. Also, use of literary psychologism enriches her narratives, offering profound insights into the human psyche. Through her exploration of characters' inner lives, motivations, and psychological struggles, Spark creates works that resonate with readers on a deep emotional and intellectual level. Her ability to blend psychological depth with her sharp wit and satirical style makes her novels enduring and impactful contributions to literature. Spark's legacy as a writer lies in her keen understanding of the complexities of human nature and her skillful depiction of the intricate workings of the mind.

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