

МЕДИЦИНА, ПЕДАГОГИКА И ТЕХНОЛОГИЯ: ТЕОРИЯ И ПРАКТИКА

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The Analysis of two novels in literature

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ABSTRACT

The article gives information about characteristics, similarities and differences of two books named "Robinson Crusoe" and "Gulliver's Travels". Although having different characters and symbols, both books share the importance of adventure and self-discovery.

Key words : *Narrative styles, Themes, Social Commentary, Conclusion*

Introduction: Novels have the power to transport readers to different worlds and challenge their perspectives. Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe" and Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" are two iconic literary works that take readers on journeys of exploration and self-discovery. While both novels share thematic similarities in terms of exploration and adventure, they differ in their narrative styles, themes, and social commentary.

Narrative Styles: "Robinson Crusoe" employs a realistic and straightforward narrative style. The story follows the protagonist, Crusoe, who survives a shipwreck and finds himself stranded on a deserted island. Defoe employs vivid descriptions, detailed accounts of survival strategies, and Crusoe's personal reflections to create a sense of realism and authenticity in the narrative.

In contrast, "Gulliver's Travels" adopts a satirical and fantastical narrative style. The novel recounts the journeys of Lemuel Gulliver to several fictional lands, each inhabited by peculiar creatures and societies. Swift uses satire to critique various aspects of human nature and society, employing humor and exaggeration to create a critical commentary.

Themes: The theme of survival and self-reliance is central to both novels. In "Robinson Crusoe," Crusoe's journey on the deserted island showcases his resilience, resourcefulness, and ability to adapt to a harsh environment. He faces numerous challenges, overcomes adversity, and ultimately triumphs through his own efforts.

On the other hand, "Gulliver's Travels" explores themes of human folly, societal criticism, and moral degradation. Gulliver encounters different societies that mirror and exaggerate the shortcomings of 18th-century European society. Through his encounters with the Lilliputians, Brobdingnagians, Laputans, and

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Houyhnhnms, Swift provides scathing social commentary on various aspects of society, including politics, science, and human nature itself.

Social Commentary: While both novels touch on social and cultural issues, the focus of their social commentary differs. “Robinson Crusoe” emphasizes individualism, colonialism, and the triumph of the adventurous individual. Crusoe’s dominance over the island and his eventual transformation into a ruler position him as a representative of European colonialism and imperialism.

Meanwhile, “Gulliver’s Travels” offers a more satirical critique of society. Swift exposes political corruption, vanity, prejudice, and the absurdity of mankind’s pursuit of power. Through the character of Gulliver, criticism is aimed not only at individuals but also at wider institutions such as governments, science, and human nature.

Conclusion: In conclusion, “Robinson Crusoe” and “Gulliver’s Travels” share themes of exploration and survival. However, they differ in narrative style, with “Crusoe” adopting a realistic approach and “Gulliver’s Travels” focusing on satire and fantasy. While Defoe’s novel conveys notions of individualism and imperialism, Swift’s work uses satire to sharply criticize various aspects of society, highlighting its flaws and follies. Both novels continue to captivate readers with their adventurous journeys and thought-provoking social commentary, making them enduring classics in English literature.

“Robinson Crusoe” and “Gulliver’s Travels” are both classic works of literature that employ various literary devices to enhance their storytelling. Here's a closer look at some of the key literary devices used in these two seminal works:

“Robinson Crusoe” by Daniel Defoe:

1. First-Person Narration: Defoe employs first-person narration to provide a sense of intimacy and immediacy, allowing readers to experience the protagonist's isolation and the challenges he faces on the deserted island. This narrative style immerses readers in Robinson Crusoe’s thoughts and emotions, creating a deeply personal connection.

2. Symbolism: The novel uses symbolic elements to convey deeper meanings. For instance, Crusoe's cultivation of the island represents human resilience and adaptation. Items such as the footprint, the goatskin cap, and the shipwreck itself serve as symbolic markers of survival, hope, and the passage of time.

3. Foreshadowing: Defoe effectively uses foreshadowing to hint at future events and build suspense. Early references to Crusoe's disobedience to his father's

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advice and warnings about venturing out to sea foreshadow the challenges and trials he will face in the uninhabited island.

“Gulliver’s Travels” by Jonathan Swift:

1. Satire: Swift employs satire as a central literary device, using exaggeration and humor to criticize human follies and societal norms. Each of Gulliver's encounters with differing societies serves as a satirical commentary on various aspects of 18th-century European society, including politics, science, and human nature.

2. Irony: Throughout the novel, Swift uses irony to underscore the disparity between appearance and reality. Gulliver's trust in the Houyhnhnms as rational creatures, only to discover their shortcomings, highlights the deceptive nature of appearances and the unreliable nature of first impressions.

3. Allegory: "Gulliver's Travels" functions as an allegory, with each society Gulliver encounters representing a facet of 18th-century England. The Lilliputians and the Blefuscutians reflect political divisions and prejudices, while the Houyhnhnms and the Yahoos serve as an allegory for reason versus irrationality in human nature.

Resources

1. Jonathan Swift "Gulliver's Travels "
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