

PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSFORMATION AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT IN DANIEL DEFOE'S ROBINSON CRUSOE

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Abstract: This article examines the process of philosophical transformation and moral development of the protagonist in Daniel Defoe's novel Robinson Crusoe (1719). The article analyzes the evolution of Crusoe's worldview from materialistic pragmatism to a spiritual understanding of existence through the prism of isolation and survival. The study shows how physical alienation becomes a catalyst for internal transformation, leading to the formation of a new value system based on religious reflection and moral self-awareness.

Keywords: philosophical transformation, moral development, spiritual evolution, isolation, religious consciousness, educational literature.

Introduction. Daniel Defoe's novel Robinson Crusoe is a unique literary phenomenon of the Enlightenment, in which the author explores fundamental questions of human existence through the prism of extreme circumstances. The work goes beyond a simple adventure narrative, becoming a deep philosophical study of human nature, its ability to adapt and spiritual growth in conditions of complete isolation from civilization [1]. The philosophical significance of the novel lies in the fact that Defoe creates a unique model of human development, where physical survival is inextricably linked with spiritual transformation.

The relevance of the study of the philosophical transformation of Robinson Crusoe is due to the fact that the novel touches on the eternal questions of human existence: the search for the meaning of life, the relationship between the individual and society, the role of religion in the formation of moral consciousness, as well as the ability of man to self-improvement in extreme conditions [2]. Defoe creates a kind of laboratory of the human spirit, where the hero goes from egoistic individualism to a deep understanding of his place in the universe.

Main part. The methodological basis of the study is a comprehensive approach, including philosophical and literary analysis, biographical method and comparative approach. The analysis is based on the study of the text of the novel in the context of the philosophical ideas of the Enlightenment, with particular attention to the concepts of the natural man of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and the empirical theories of John Locke [3]. A psychoanalytic approach is also used to understand the internal mechanisms of the transformation of the hero's personality.

Literary analysis shows that Defoe's novel has become the object of numerous interpretations. Researchers note that the work reflects the key ideas of the Protestant ethic and capitalist thinking characteristic of English society in the 18th century [4]. Critic Ian Watt emphasizes that Robinson Crusoe is the first real novel in English literature, since for the first time it so fully reveals the inner world of an individual placed in extreme circumstances [5]. The philosophical aspect of the novel is analyzed in the works of modern researchers, who consider the work as a literary embodiment of the concept of the "natural man" and criticism of civilizational values [6]. Particular attention is paid to the

religious dimension of the novel, where Crusoe's spiritual awakening is interpreted as an allegory of Protestant conversion and the individual path to salvation [7].

An analysis of the novel's text reveals a clear structure of the protagonist's philosophical transformation, which occurs in several stages. Initially, Robinson Crusoe appears as a typical representative of the emerging bourgeoisie, driven by a thirst for profit and adventurism. His decision to go on a sea voyage against the will of his parents reflects the individualistic tendencies of the era, when personal freedom and the right to self-determination become the most important values. However, this freedom turns into the tragedy of a shipwreck, which symbolizes the collapse of materialistic illusions and the beginning of a spiritual quest.

Isolation on a desert island becomes a catalyst for radical changes in the hero's worldview. Deprived of his usual social connections and the material benefits of civilization, Crusoe is forced to reconsider his system of values and turn to the inner resources of the soul. Defoe masterfully shows how physical survival gradually transforms into spiritual rebirth, and the practical activities of arranging everyday life acquire a sacred meaning [8]. The hero begins to perceive his work not simply as a means of survival, but as a form of service to God and a way of spiritual self-improvement.

The key moment of philosophical transformation is Crusoe's religious awakening, which occurs through understanding his sinful past and recognizing divine providence in his destiny. Defoe shows how the hero gradually comes to the understanding that his isolation is not a punishment, but an opportunity for spiritual cleansing and moral improvement. Reading the Bible becomes a central element of his new life, forming the basis for deep religious reflection and moral self-analysis.

Crusoe's moral development is manifested in his attitude to Friday, which evolves from paternalistic patronage to a truly humane understanding of the equality of all people before God. This transformation reflects the enlightenment ideas about the natural equality of people regardless of their racial and cultural background [9]. Defoe demonstrates how true religiosity leads to overcoming prejudices and the formation of humanistic values.

The philosophical significance of the novel also lies in the fact that the author explores the problem of the relationship between the individual and social principles in man. Crusoe creates a kind of microcivilization on the island, reproducing the basic elements of social organization, but at the same time maintaining individual autonomy and spiritual freedom.

Conclusion. The study of philosophical transformation and moral development in the novel "Robinson Crusoe" shows that Daniel Defoe created a profound artistic and philosophical work in which extreme circumstances become a catalyst for the spiritual transformation of the individual. The evolution of the protagonist's worldview from materialistic pragmatism to a religious and philosophical understanding of existence reflects the key trends of the Enlightenment and demonstrates the universal patterns of human development. The novel asserts the idea that true self-knowledge and moral improvement are possible only through overcoming egoistic aspirations and turning to higher spiritual values. The philosophical relevance of Defoe's work remains in the modern era, as it touches on fundamental issues of human existence and offers a model of spiritual development based on the synthesis of practical activity and religious reflection.

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