

**THE NOTION OF PHILOSOPHICAL TENDENCIES AND
PHILOSOPHICAL FICTION IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN
LITERATURE**

Emine Sergeyevna Yevstegniyeva*

*Teacher of English Language,
Uzbekistan State World Languages University,
Tashkent, UZBEKISTAN

Email id: emine.yevstegniyeva.93@mail.ru

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ABSTRACT

At the conference with representatives of the country's creative intelligentsia on August 3, 2017, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ShavkatMirziyoyev made a presentation, where he highlighted important facts: "In our country, along with all spheres and industries, great attention is paid to the development of culture, art, literature and the media". Nowadays, it is necessary to know the literature of the world, thus to broaden the horizon of humanity. The object of research is to identify specific features of the unique genre of philosophical prose on the basis of famous Modern American novels and to explain the notion "philosophical tendency". Philosophical prose is also a holistic exploration of the world; but the prism through which the artist looks at the world is not a fact, not a phenomenon of literature or arts, but the dynamics of social consciousness, recreated in its individual contradictory forms. Throughout the research work the author displays the major tasks: (1) to study the literary development of American philosophically oriented literature; (2) to study the major concepts of philosophical prose; (3) to reveal the notion philosophical tendencies illustrated in the prominent works of contemporary American writers. The investigation was carried out basing on descriptive and analytical methods, formalistic conceptual and empirical method. According to research findings, the author discloses the idea that Contemporary American literature with philosophical tendencies is a genre under the domination of the society, progress and technology. In addition, the research also categorizes the essential topics and concepts of philosophical novels and defines their distinctive features. The results and conclusions of the research make a sufficient contribution to the development of "Theory of Modern American Literature". It allows to be acquainted with variety of definitions and major concepts of contemporary philosophical genre in Literature suggested by different scholars and literary critics. The results of the research can be applicable for writing scientific articles, qualification papers and course works. Partially, the results are expected to be used for the lectures and seminars on the philosophical tendencies of contemporary American literature.

KEYWORDS: *Contemporary Literature, Philosophical Tendencies, Philosophical Prose, Social Consciousness, Existentialism, The Essence Of Human Mind, Poetry Slams.*

INTRODUCTION

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan after his speech which was pronounced at the meeting with representatives of the country's creative intelligentsia on August 3, 2017 had a detailed exchange of views on topical issues of the development of national culture, literature and art, ways to solve the problems, the important tasks facing creative unions and state organizations in working this field.

At the conference, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ShavkatMirziyoyev made a presentation, where he highlighted important facts: "In our country, along with all spheres and industries, great attention is paid to the development of culture, art and literature, and the media. Especially in recent years, a lot of work has been carried out to develop this area at a new stage. In order to revive and study the rich cultural heritage of our people, a number of large projects are being implemented. In particular, the Center for Islamic Culture in Uzbekistan is being created in our capital, and the International Research Center named after Imam Bukhari in Samarkand. The activities of the Center for the Study of the Cultural Wealth of Uzbekistan Abroad and the Center for the New History of Uzbekistan are being organized. A great deal of work is being done to improve the culture of reading, improve the spheres of culture and art, organize creative schools and centers in the regions, which will be named after our great figures of literature and art." [1]

The President of our country ShavkatMirziyoyev, speaking of the significance and effectiveness of the past open and sincere dialogue, firmly emphasized that we have an admirable great history, admirable great ancestors, admirable untold riches. And I am convinced that we will have an admirable great future, great literature and art. [2]

The place of literature in our lives is highly essential. The ultimate goal of artistic creation is to contribute to the development of the science, especially to the World Literature. Knowing the literature of other countries will enable a person to have a lot of knowledge in history, geography and other important subjects. There are three models of teaching literature, according to Carter and Long (1991): 1) the cultural model, which requires students to investigate and interpret a text's social, political, literary, and historical context; 2) the language model, which allows students to access a text systematically and methodically in order to demonstrate specific linguistic features such as literal and figurative language, direct and indirect speech, and; 3) the personal growth model, which focuses on the specific use of language in a text. [3] Learning English and American literature opens up a world of inspiration and creativity, while at the same time developing skills that are vital for the global environment of today. It is an opportunity to discover how the world makes sense of literature through stories, poems, novels and plays.

Individuals learn to appreciate words and their authority when they study literature. Through the texts that they read, they travel to other realms and times. They understand their own culture and those of others. They are learning to empathize with people, to feel their joys and pain. Literature also develops critical and creative thinking skills in students and encourages students to draw connections between global and local problems. It involves negotiating through collaboration and efficient communication with others. In the 21st century, these are essential, as more and more jobs are outmoded by the development of artificial intelligence. Those who wish to remain relevant would be the ones who can accomplish what machine thinking cannot, and Literature develops just such skills.

Having analyzed the literature review of the given topic it is worth to mention the important names of the scholars who discussed the topic about philosophical tendencies in literature. They include the following books and the authors: "American educators. Selected works in two volume" by Yakovenko B.V, "Modern American philosophy, Essays on American Philosophy" by MelvilleYu.K, "American personalism - the philosophy of imperialist reaction" by Shershenko L.A, "Man and his world in the philosophy of American personalism", "The problem of man in modern philosophy" by Dvoretzskaya E.V, "Anglo-"American philosophy of the last quarter of the XX century: personalistic tendencies", "Pragmatic Naturalism in American Philosophy. Moscow" by Russian Humanitarian Society of 2003, "American philosophy, an encyclopedia de John Lachs" by Robert B. Talisse, éd. Routledge of 2008," A history of philosophy in America" by Bruce Kuklick and the encyclopedia of Oxford University Press, 2001.

The concept of philosophy has always been in the interest of not only literary critiques and authors, but also many European scientists. Just to illustrate, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, a German philosopher who also claimed a lot philosophical tendencies in his prominent works. Hegel refers to social life as "the living good," but it's unclear what he means. The concept not only communicates an ontological claim about the kind of being that human societies possess, but it also has normative implications, demonstrating why the category of social pathology is a useful tool of social critique. Processes of existence filled with ethical substance make up social life. [4]. In some of the books with philosophical coating sometimes authors apply the meaning of the religion and philosophy. For instance, one of the most pressing concerns confronting humanity today is the environmental disaster. The situation can be examined from a Christian standpoint, as the relationship between Christianity and the environment has long been debated due to its intricacies. One approach for Christianity to connect its teachings to the environmental situation is through eco-theology. [5]

Of course, the topics of philosophical fiction have been discussed not only in the works of English or American authors, but also in the works of Russian researchers. It is worth to mention the famous work "Philosophical prose as a phenomenon of Russian classical literature" by Russian author Eremeyev A.E written in the last decade of the 20th century. In his work he states the importance of the problems of theoretical and historical-literary comprehension of the philosophical layer in Russian classical and modern literature and its' popularity throughout the world. Eremeyev concludes that the question of the origins of philosophical prose is extremely significant. He says that studying it in the inseparability of the theoretical and historical-literary aspects makes it possible to enrich the understanding of the process of the formation of philosophical potential, as well as outline the prospects for the study of successive ties in the work of modern writers. [6]

If we speak about philosophical tendencies that were depicted by Russian scholars, we can reveal two different sources of philosophical literature. The reason for one of them is the synthetic nature of artistic activity in general, connecting the spiritual and the practical, consciousness and being. [7] The reason for the second is the intellectual and logical principle in the word as the material of literature. These two points would already be enough for different individual modifications of philosophical literature to exist, not to mention the penetration of philosophical problems into the literature of different eras. [8] However, in the very method of artistic assimilation of reality in literature there is a sphere that reflects the interaction of the cognitive

(philosophical) and ethical moments. [9] It is associated with the concept of the artistic content of a literary work. Bakhtin defined the concept of artistic content as follows: "The reality of cognition and ethical action, which, in its recognition and appreciation, enters the aesthetic object and undergoes here a specific intuitive unification, individuation, concretization, isolation and completion, that is, comprehensive decoration with the help of a certain material, we call the content of a work of art" This quote was stated by the Russian literary critique Kojinov V.V.

Another author Paliyevskiy P.V considers that the moment of cognitive cognition accompanies the activity of artistic creativity and contemplation everywhere, but in most cases it is completely inseparable from the ethical moment and cannot be expressed by an adequate judgment. [10]

The author Rodnyanskaya acknowledges that even without being highlighted, the philosophical and cognitive moment in a work can contribute to serious discoveries in comprehending the essence of phenomena: "This inner illumination of an aesthetic object in the field of verbal creativity from the degree of knowledge can rise to the degree of certain knowledge and deep comprehensions that can be highlighted by aesthetic analysis". It is important not just to single out the cognitive (philosophical) and ethical aspects in the composition of the artistic content, but to indicate that the way they are connected in the artistic content may be different. [11] The intensification of philosophical tendencies in prose falls on the era of its formation. [12] In the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the main types of prose took shape in Russian literature. It is not surprising that, along with the forms of didactic-allegorical narration, there are varieties of philosophical journalism, aesthetics, criticism, as well as fictional prose itself with an emphasized philosophical principle based on anecdote, myth, maxim and other oral genres. [13] In the article "The philosophical tendency in contemporary literature" Valentina Ivashova enlisted Russian authors who tended to reflect philosophically in their piece of writing. They are: Leonov ("The Russian forest"), Vladimir Tendrykov ("A topsy-turvi spring", "Graduation night"), Yuri Bondarev ("The shore").

Different genre genesis determines a lot in Russian philosophical prose. So, there are examples of openly experimental prose, in which the philosophical principle is artificially introduced and gives the impression of an undissolved logical structure in the artistic fabric of a work, or a figurative illustration, an example for some author's thesis. [14] In addition, it is inevitably to mention the works of other scholars and literary critiques who researched the philosophically inclined literature of America. One of the most important and initial works in this field of study is the creation of the Russian scholar Valentina Ivashova. [15] Scientist Valentina Ivashova mentioned the notion and the preconditions of the philosophically inclined literature in her work "On the threshold of the twenty first century". Mainly, in her work she illustrates the main representatives of English, American and Russian writers, such as *Robert Penn Warren*, John Gardner, Elia Kazan and Kurt Vonnegut William Clark Styron and Saul Bellow, who wrote their literary works with philosophical coating. [12] Another Russian candidate of philological sciences is Novikova Irina. Her work "Philosophical tendencies in the novel of the United States of the 70s (R. Penn Warren, W. Styron, J. Gardner)" was published in 1985, in Moscow. At the beginning of her dissertation paper, she focuses on the preconditions of the genre of literature with the philosophical generalization. Her research depicts that in the 20th century, with its extraordinary dynamism of events, the period after the Second World War, nevertheless, is distinguished by the acceleration of the pace of social and scientific development. [6] The nature of the movement of modern history has significantly expanded the range of topics offered to

literature - the forms of artistic reflection have also changed; the framework of the usual literary genres has expanded. Modern literature required new ways of philosophical comprehension of the age-old problems of being and man. [16]

Western literature of the post-war decades is permeated with mistrust of the active principle of a man. [12] The Soviet Translator L. Ginzburg gave a remarkable assessment of this change in the mood of the post-war generations: "Every person suddenly realized with special acuteness the truth that he is not free, that everything depends not on himself, but on the will of other people: any step, any, the most an insignificant act. [17] I do not determine what to do now, where to go, what to eat. «In an atmosphere of confusion in front of such a rapidly and imperceptibly changed being, philosophical systems imbued with the spirit of pessimism, especially existentialism, became popular among writers. [7]

Philosophical tendencies in contemporary American literature are considered to be a relatively new notion in the artistic sphere. However, this genre started to be noticed in some old forms of literature. [18] Previously, the notion "philosophical tendency" was not remarkably noticed in the works of literature. In the course of our timeline within the development and progressing of our world, modern philosophical novels progressed and accepted the form which is quietly distinguishing from the former works. [19] Nowadays, the philosophically oriented novels are not just presenting the life or the critics of famous philosophers, but also tend to have an incredible plot, language and memorable characters. American writers tended to reflect philosophically on the world in the 1960's and 1970's. American criticism has also recently applied this tendency and has remarked the certain writers whose fictional works proves a tendency to philosophical generalization on the part of major American writers today - J.Styron, Robert Penn Warren, Robert Maynard Pirsig and Elia Kazan. In order to analyze completely and to see the general illustration of philosophical tendencies in the development of Modern American philosophical prose we have to dispatch also to the works of such American writers as Tenessy Williams, John Gardner, and Kurt Vonnegut. It is true that the research about philosophical tendencies in contemporary American literature has progressed tremendously in the past several decades due to the advent and accessibility of new technologies and experiments that enable data sharing, analyzing and using for the future investigations. Consequently, it might be difficult to find a topic about which nothing is known or no literature is available. However, there is still a lot of scope for progress. Surely, we tried to do an effort while finding good and sufficient literature. Of course, making our research based only on literature which has already been thoroughly investigated will not make our work more reliable. Therefore, when we made our research, we have noticed in the literature review that some novels of American literature with philosophical inclination are not included in scientists' works of this aspect.

The subject of philosophy appeared not only in the literary works of the mentioned male authors, but also in the works of one female author Ayn Rand. We can find the majority of philosophical tendencies in her novel "The Fountainhead". [20] Her philosophical articles lack the self-critical, thorough language of analytic philosophy, as well as any genuine attempt to evaluate potential counter-arguments to her positions. Her argumentative manner, often dismissive tone, and many of her admirers' dogmatism and cult-like conduct all suggest that her work isn't worth taking seriously. [21] Rand states when circumstances prevent you from rethinking everything, emotions supply fast counsel. However, because our emotions are "programmed" by our reason, they are only as good as our reason. As a result, they can only be remedied through conscious

reasoning, and in a battle between reason and emotions, the former must always win. [22] Rand believes that our activities should be guided by a vision of the universe's underlying nature and the efficacy of human intellect and action—a vision that can be comprehended directly rather than requiring the conscious repetition of extensive chains of abstract reasoning. [23]

So, throughout the research the author tries to investigate and analyze the peculiarities of Literature with philosophical tendencies on the basis of the prose written by contemporary American authors. To reach the aim, the following tasks were set: to study the literary development of American philosophically oriented literature, to study the major concepts of philosophical prose, to reveal the most relevant philosophical tendencies illustrated in the most famous works of contemporary American writers, to categorize the essential topics and concepts of philosophical novels and to define their distinctive features.

METHODS:

In this research, basically we apply descriptive and analytical methods, formalistic conceptual and empirical method. We will base on such questions as: “What aspects of the author’s life and stated beliefs are reflected in his work and do some characters in the works correspond to real life of selected authors?” Merely, we think that descriptive and analytical methods in research are the most effective ones that suit all our aims because they include comparative and relational methods. Hence, we will analyse and compare different works for determining the main philosophical tendencies that are the main specific features of any philosophical prose.

Research materials are based on the texts of the novels written by American authors as *Robert Maynard Pirsig*, William Clark Styron Jr., *Robert Penn Warren*, Elia Kazan. In addition, the research materials include some scientific works related to American literary criticism conducted by Valentina Ivasheva, Koln and others. The methodological base of the research includes the critical work by Valentina Ivasheva “The Philosophical Tendency in Contemporary American Literature ” , online- program and read – Current tendencies in contemporary American fiction, on 22-23 June 2018 Warburg-Haus Hamburg that was organized by Organized by Marius Henderson, Julia Lange and Jolene Mathieson, The international conference “American Literature and the Philosophical” that was held in Paris on March 23-25, and was organized by Richard Anker (University Clermont Auvergne), authentic novels by authors of philosophical fiction and other critical works.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the research investigated the author obtained several results as:

1) Accurate explanation of the notion contemporary American literature and its’ specific features. 2) Genuine interpretation of the American novels that were written applying philosophical orientation 3) The role and place of American writers such as *Robert Maynard Pirsig*, William Clark Styron Jr., *Robert Penn Warren*, and Elia Kazan in Contemporary American literature.

Consequently, philosophical prose is, first of all, fictional prose, if we understand artistry as “the inner quality of aesthetic phenomena that are different from other phenomena of life and cultural creativity,” and this quality has the character of an organic unity, similar to the biological creativity of life. [17]

The epithet 'philosophical' indicates not only the presence of a specially highlighted theoretical philosophical principle in the composition of the artistic content, but mainly the special nature of the connection between the cognitive moment and the ethical one, a special way of artistic design, the synthesis of such principles. [24]. Different proportions of the philosophical principle, different types of connections of synthesized elements in the composition of such prose, different directions of the author's consciousness and special ways of its embodiment- all this should help to single out the types of philosophical prose. [11] Philosophical prose presupposes not so much the embodiment of the self-development of life mediated by pictures, the depiction of phenomena, as in purely artistic prose, but rather a direct, concentrated expression of the meaning of what is happening, taking place in the process of obtaining it. [25] Moreover, the ways of thinking about the world, the paths along which thought moves, become a special subject of philosophical prose. Often, works of philosophical prose are built on the primacy of a moral and philosophical thesis that is clear to the author, and the narrative is subordinated to the logic of its disclosure. [26]

In such works, thought subordinates to itself the development of artistic imagery, or rather, is a kind of dominant that organizes the internal structure of an artistic image. It must be remembered that the supremacy of conceptual thought in the composition of an artistic image is only a tendency, a kind of semantic pole that is never attainable in practice. In a word, philosophical imagery manifests itself on the basis of concentration, consolidation of the general meaning of phenomena, as well as due to an increase in the proportion of the protagonist (heroes), the consciousness of the narrating subject. [8] His biography includes absolutely all significant events occurring within the framework of the social whole of which he is a member. The direction of the author's consciousness in works of philosophical prose is always clearly deductive, the general meaning is often given and is only refined, proved, concretized in the process of unfolding the artistic image. [9]

Philosophical prose is also a holistic exploration of the world; but the prism through which the artist looks at the world is not a fact, not a phenomenon, but the dynamics of social consciousness, recreated in its individual contradictory forms. The narrative in philosophical prose is not the "direct embodiment of artistic thoughts" of the author, because such self-expression would be analogous to the abstract contemplation of abstract thinking. [27] Philosophical prose is a phenomenon of art, and therefore combines knowledge and action. The author of philosophical prose does not so much form his thoughts about the world as he reveals the general state of reality, exploring the dynamics of social consciousness. [27]

CONCLUSION:

All in all, we have discussed the notion of philosophical tendencies in literature and philosophical fiction. We have analyzed variety of definitions proposed by dictionaries, encyclopedias and the general observations of scholars of literature and philosophy.

We have investigated the main the main tendencies of literature with philosophical generalization. We came up to a conclusion that mainly that kind of creative works includes the literary treatment of philosophers and philosophical themes; in addition, the philosophical treatment of issues raised by literature. The main tendencies of philosophy are: the existence of narrative raises philosophical issues in which a creator can embody, and readers be led to imagine, fictional characters, and even fantastic creatures or technologies. The ability of the

human mind to imagine, and even to experience empathy with, these fictional characters is itself revealing about the nature of the human mind. Some fiction can be thought of as a sort of a thought experiment in ethics: it describes fictional characters, their motives, their actions, and the consequences of their actions. It is in this light that some philosophers have chosen various narrative forms to teach their philosophy. [28]

Philosophically oriented literature addresses age-old questions of metaphysics, ethics, and morality. It ponders the purpose of life, the nature of God or the universe, right versus wrong, death, time—the list goes on.

Also, we have mentioned about the evolution preconditions for the genre of philosophically-inclined literature and its main representatives. We have revealed that writing with philosophical coating has picked up its notoriety, taking distinctive headings within the post war period. Primarily, French writing given a number of vital existentialist works amid the period of war – over all, the books of Albert Camus, the youthful Sartre, and the Simone de Beauvoir – and it was in France, after all, that the existentialists novel came into being within the late 1940's. Be that as it may, French writing nowadays has cleared out existentialism behind and its philosophical propensity has diminished in comparison with other European literary works. Vercors is presently the foremost recognized creator of the philosophical propensity. The circumstance is distinctive in Anglo- Saxon Nations Incredible Britain and the Joined Together States, which customarily “disliked” hypothesis. In spite of the fact that, the work of English and American scholars got to be particularly more slanted towards philosophical reflection amid the 1950's – 1970's, the writing of each nation has ended up philosophical in its possess way.

In this article we see the way how the questions that human individual cannot answer about genres of philosophy may be the root to questions about what philosophy is. Therefore, we are not able to speak and inquire about the style of philosophically-oriented novel without asking what features make it look philosophical. [29] And, whether we're talking about Plato's dialogues, Abelard's letters to Heloise, Pascal's aphorisms, Spinoza's Ethics, or any other work at the heart or peripheral of the Western tradition, the question of what constitutes a text philosophical isn't answered by a cursory examination of the content. We must assess the text's unifying form and the implications of its formative literary qualities for the text's ultimate aim. [30]

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Literature with philosophical coating plays a sufficient role in the human world and its chronicle development. This research can be prolonged at the textual surface of the artistic works to investigate the major themes and characters in popular American philosophical prose.

The results of the research can be applicable for writing scientific articles, qualification papers and course works. Partially, the results are expected to be used for the lectures and seminars on the philosophical tendencies of contemporary American literature. The investigated and analyzed research material allows identifying and clarifying the specific features of novels with philosophical generalization within the Contemporary American literary genre and the notion of “philosophical tendency” in the very genre. The results and conclusions of the research make a sufficient contribution to the development of “Theory of Modern American Literature”; in

addition, in the interpretation of philosophically inclined novels that might help in the implementation of further research in this field. The research allows to be acquainted with variety of definitions and major concepts of contemporary philosophical genre in Literature suggested by different scholars and literary critics.

The results of the work can be used in writing different scientific articles, qualification, and course works in the field of Literature and Literary criticisms. Some results might be used for the lectures and seminars on the philosophical tendencies in Contemporary American literature.

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