

THE ENLIGHTENMENT IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Abstract: The Enlightenment, which lasted from the late 17th to the early 18th century, was a watershed moment in English writing, distinguished by a focus on reason, science, and intellectual discourse. Writers and philosophers attempted to challenge traditional authority and spread knowledge through empirical facts and reasonable thought. Key personalities such as John Locke, Alexander Pope, and Jonathan Swift used their writings to promote societal reform, individual rights, and the power of reason. Satire, essays, and philosophical treatises flourished throughout this period, reflecting the critical and inquisitive attitude of the day. The Enlightenment literature sought to educate and enlighten the general population, creating a climate conducive to discussion and intellectual advancement. As a result, it paved the way for modern democratic and scientific philosophy, having a significant impact on subsequent generations.

Keywords: distinguish, Enlightenment, English, intellectual, individual, philosophical

Аннотация: Эпоха Просвещения, продолжавшаяся с конца 17 по начало 18 века, стала переломным моментом в английской письменности, отличавшейся вниманием к разуму, науке и интеллектуальному дискурсу. Писатели и философы пытались бросить вызов традиционным авторитетам и распространять знания посредством эмпирических фактов и разумного мышления. Ключевые личности, такие как Джон Локк, Александр Поуп и Джонатан Свифт, использовали свои произведения для продвижения социальных реформ, прав личности и силы разума. В этот период процветали сатира, эссе и философские трактаты, отражающие критическое и любознательное отношение того времени. Литература Просвещения стремилась дать образование и просвещать население в целом, создавая атмосферу, способствующую дискуссиям и интеллектуальному развитию. В результате оно проложило путь современной демократической и научной философии, оказав значительное влияние на последующие поколения.

Ключевые слово: различать, Просвещение, английский, интеллектуальный, индивидуальный, философский

So'zboshi: 17-asr oxiri - 18-asr boshlarigacha davom etgan Ma'rifat davri ingliz yozuvida aql, ilm-fan va intellektual nutqqa e'tibor qaratish bilan ajralib turadigan davr bo'ldi. Yozuvchilar va faylasuflar an'anaviy hokimiyatga qarshi chiqishga va

bilimlarni empirik faktlar va oqilona fikrlash orqali tarqatishga harakat qilishdi. Jon Lokk, Aleksandr Pope va Jonatan Svift kabi asosiy shaxslar o'z asarlaridan jamiyatni isloh qilish, shaxsiy huquqlar va aql kuchini targ'ib qilish uchun foydalanganlar. Bu davrda o'sha davrning tanqidiy va izlanuvchan munosabatini aks ettiruvchi satira, ocherk va falsafiy risolalar rivoj topdi. Ma'rifatparvar adabiyotlar keng aholini o'qitish va ma'rifat berishga intilib, munozara va intellektual yuksalish uchun qulay muhit yaratdi. Natijada, keyingi avlodlarga sezilarli ta'sir ko'rsatib, zamonaviy demokratik va ilmiy falsafaga yo'l ochdi.

Kalit so'zlar: ajratish, ma'rifat, ingliz, intellektual, individual, falsafiy

The Enlightenment, often known as the Age of Reason, placed a heavy emphasis on reason and logic, greatly impacting English literature. During this time, writers and intellectuals had the belief that rational thought and scientific study may lead to knowledge, freedom, and happiness. In his "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding" (1689), Locke maintained that sensory experience and reflection are the sources of human knowledge and concepts. This empiricist approach emphasizes observation and facts as the foundation for understanding the world, opposing the concept of intrinsic beliefs and blind acceptance of tradition. The Enlightenment writers were influenced by rationalist philosophy, which held that reason is the fundamental source of information and should govern human acts and beliefs. This transition prompted a more critical and inquisitive attitude towards previously accepted ideologies. Satire was utilized by writers such as Jonathan Swift and Alexander Pope to illustrate societal and political follies. Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" satirizes human nature and the pretensions of the Enlightenment, whilst his "A Modest Proposal" employs biting irony to criticize society attitudes toward the poor. Reason and rationality were crucial to the Enlightenment's impact on English writing. Enlightenment writers used philosophical debate, satirical critique, instructional texts, and scientific reflection to illuminate human knowledge and promote a rational, evidence-based worldview. This stress on reason influenced not only the literary output of the time, but also broader social and political transformations that continue to this day.

When it comes to Thematic concerns:

1. Reason vs. Superstition: Literature of the Enlightenment often contrasted reason with the superstition and irrationality of previous eras.
2. Critique of Authority: Many works questioned and satirized the authority of the monarchy and the church.
3. Human Nature and Society: Writers explored the complexities of human nature, often with a view to reforming society.

4. The Role of the Individual: Literature emphasized the rights and potential of the individual, often depicting characters who challenge societal norms.

Literary forms and Innovations:

1. The Novel: The period saw the rise of the novel as a major literary form, with authors like Defoe, Richardson, and Fielding pioneering its development.

2. Satire: Satirical writing became a powerful tool for critiquing society and politics, exemplified by works of Swift and Pope.

3. Periodical Essays: The essay emerged as a popular form, with writers like Addison and Steele using it to comment on social and cultural issues.

The Enlightenment laid the groundwork for subsequent literary movements, including Romanticism, which reacted against its rationalism and emphasis on reason. However, the period's focus on individualism and critical thinking continued to influence literature well into the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Enlightenment was a transformative period in English literature, characterized by its embrace of reason, individualism, and critical inquiry. The works of its major writers not only reflect the intellectual currents of their time but also paved the way for future literary developments. Through satire, novelistic innovation, and philosophical discourse, Enlightenment literature remains a cornerstone of the Western literary tradition.

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