

Psychologism in Alexander Pushkin's Novel Eugene Onegin

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Abstract. This paper examines psychologism as a vital element of Alexander Pushkin's artistic method in the novel *Eugene Onegin*. Particular attention is paid to the techniques used to depict the characters' inner worlds, their emotional and moral experiences, and the motives behind their actions. The study analyzes the interaction between the author and the protagonists, the influence of social and cultural contexts on character formation, and the role of narration and internal monologues in conveying the subtle nuances of psychological life.

Keywords: psychologism, character's inner world, emotional experiences, moral conflicts, internal monologue, characters, A.S. Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*, 19th-century Russian literature.

Introduction

Psychologism in the novel by A. S. Pushkin "Eugene Onegin" occupies a key place in revealing the characters of the personages and the artistic structure of the work. The writer shows the internal world of the heroes through emotions, behavior, actions, and the contrast between the external and internal state. The novel demonstrates a new stage of development of psychological realism in Russian literature.

The novel in verse by A. S. Pushkin "Eugene Onegin" is an outstanding work of Russian literature of the 19th century. Already contemporaries noted that the author managed to show not only the external life of society, but also the complex internal world of a person [4, p. 5]. The psychologism of the novel manifests itself in the deep disclosure of the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of the heroes.

In "Eugene Onegin," Pushkin combines psychologism with author's comments. Through the reflections of the heroes and the soulful observations of the narrator, the reader receives the opportunity to deeply understand the personality of each character. This technique makes the novel not only narrative but also analytical, allowing for the exploration of the spiritual states of people.

In the work, Pushkin does not limit himself to the description of external events. He explores spiritual states, motives, and internal hesitations of the heroes. Psychologism manifests through internal monologues, observations of the author, dialogues, as well as through attention to small details that reveal the character. Through these means, the reader understands why the heroes act one way and not another, and how their internal world influences their fate.

Modern researcher D. Ustyuzhanin identifies a number of key features of psychologism in the dramaturgy of Pushkin. Analyzing the creative method of the poet, he emphasizes that in the plays, dialectical development of character is absent: the author does not change the hero gradually, but places him in different psychological situations, each of which maximally reveals the features of the personality, the system of his thoughts, and motives of behavior [5, p. 45]. One can say, Pushkin

reveals the internal world of the character as if in a static perspective, but through a series of vivid trials.

G. A. Gukovsky also relates "Eugene Onegin" to psychological novels, however, he emphasizes its significant difference from the romantic tradition. According to the researcher, Pushkin creates heroes who are fully independent in relation to the author [2, p. 143]. This "materiality" and lifelike authenticity of the characters determine the features of the artistic method: Pushkin is extremely economical in direct psychological analysis and reasoning about the internal state of the heroes. Yu. M. Lotman, on the contrary, proposes a different approach, designated in his study "Toward the Evolution of Character Construction in the Novel 'Eugene Onegin'." He notes that during the years of the novel's creation, Pushkin's aesthetic views evolved, which affected the artistic principles. In his opinion, the historical approach allowed for the unification of psychologism and social context into a single system [3, p. 168].

The main hero, Eugene Onegin, is presented as a typical representative of secular society who has lost the ability to receive pleasure from life. Onegin experiences boredom and alienation, which is reflected in the well-known definition "Russian khandra." His internal world becomes a source of suffering and contradictions between freedom and fear of real feelings. "Onegin was bored, he was indifferent to everything." Through such details, the reader sees the internal conflict of the hero. When Onegin rejects Tatyana, Pushkin shows not simply a refusal, but a struggle of pride and hidden feelings, which makes the image multidimensional. Internal reflections of Onegin reveal why he acts exactly this way and not another: he fears real emotions and attachment, which in the end determines the course of his fate.

Pushkin pays special attention to the psychological drama of Lensky. The young poet is romantic and naive; his dreams of love and friendship contradict reality. The conflict between the ideal and reality leads to tragedy: the duel becomes a consequence of a misunderstanding and an outburst of Onegin's pride. After the death of Lensky, a feeling of guilt haunts Onegin.

The psychologism of Tatyana Larina is revealed significantly deeper. She is sincere, honest, and does not know how to hide her feelings. From early years, Tatyana manifests dreaminess and a tendency toward reflection. Pushkin describes her love for reading novels and tendency toward fantasies, which forms her emotional receptivity and capacity for strong feelings: "Tatyana... in solitude dreamed and read novels." These observations show that the internal world of the heroine is rich and developed, she deeply feels what is happening and is ready for strong experiences.

Her letter to Onegin remains one of the most emotional episodes of the novel. In it, Tatyana bares her experiences and hopes: her love bears a self-sacrificing character. Pushkin writes: "I write to you — what more is there?...", showing how the heroine opens her soul and manifests courage in the confession of her feelings. Onegin rejects Tatyana's love, and her reaction demonstrates psychological maturity:

"Tatyana was confused and humbly submitted to fate." She experiences pain and disappointment but maintains self-possession. Psychologism manifests in the ability of the heroine to combine deep feelings with reason and self-control. This episode shows that Tatyana is capable of dealing with an internal crisis and accepting difficulties without losing dignity.

A very important means of psychological analysis is Tatyana's dream. It symbolizes her fears and premonitions, helps to understand her internal anxiety before the unknown. The author uses elements of folklore and mysticism to convey the emotional state of the heroine [6, p. 97].

The psychological development of Tatyana is obvious in the Petersburg chapters. She matures, acquires a new social status, however, she maintains internal integrity and capacity for strong feelings. The final scene of her conversation with Onegin demonstrates the moral victory of Tatyana: she refuses to betray her principles despite love. V. G. Belinsky called Tatyana the "moral ideal" of the Russian woman [1, p. 104].

The author's position plays a significant role in revealing psychologism. Pushkin participates in the

narrative as a conversationalist of the reader. He analyzes the characters of the heroes, ironizes, sympathizes, reasons about love, time, and social conditions [7, p. 56]. This duality — detachment and involvement — strengthens the depth of perception of the personages. Psychological subtlety also manifests in descriptions of nature. Pushkin uses the landscape not only as a background, but also as a reflection of the spiritual state of the heroes. The winter rural landscape strengthens the image of the dreamy Tatyana; the Petersburg luxury emphasizes her internal loneliness. It can be argued that the psychologism of the novel is connected with the social context of the era.

Conflicts inside the heroes are conditioned by contradictions between the personality and society. Onegin, Lensky, and Tatyana embody different paths and different values, the comparison of which creates a holistic system of psychological characteristics of the personages. Tatyana and Onegin are opposed to each other: Onegin is cold, passive, and emotionally closed; Tatyana is sincere, sensitive, and spiritually strong. Through the psychologism of Tatyana, Pushkin shows how maturity, the capacity for self-control, and emotional harmony form the actions and fate of a person, while the emptiness and internal contradictions of Onegin lead to tragic consequences.

Pushkin shows that the internal world of a person is complex and multifaceted. The heroes of his novel face problems of choice, responsibility for actions, and realization of their place in life. Precisely this makes "Eugene Onegin" one of the peaks of Russian classical literature.

The psychologism of the novel by A. S. Pushkin "Eugene Onegin" becomes the main means of revealing the characters and the internal world of the heroes. The poet creates a figurative and simultaneously realistic model of personality, in which the feelings and actions of a person are conditioned by the social environment, moral foundations, and changes in life circumstances. Pushkin shows that the spiritual life of the heroes is subject to regularities connected with historical time, experience, and personal choice.

An important role in revealing the psychologism of the novel is played by the author's position. According to the observation of A. B. Esin, Pushkin consciously combines objective narrative with subtle psychological commentary, allowing the reader to penetrate into the hidden motives of the heroes' actions. The author acts as an attentive observer and analyst of the human soul.

In the center of the work are the spiritual searches and internal contradictions of Onegin, the dreamy and deep nature of Tatyana, and the romantic idealism of Lensky. Their fates demonstrate the dramatic consequences of the gap between ideals and reality. The author avoids direct analysis of experiences, preferring artistic details, landscape, dialogue, and author's commentary. Such an approach makes the psychological depiction more multilayered and opens to the reader the opportunity to independently evaluate the emotional states of the heroes. The psychologism of the novel becomes the basis for the formation of the realistic method in Russian literature. Pushkin for the first time shows the development of character under the influence of time and circumstances. That is why the images of the heroes continue to be felt as modern, and the emotional depth of the work remains close to every reader. "Eugene Onegin" is not only a novel about the fates of people of its time. It is a work about the eternal: about love, loneliness, choice, and responsibility. Thanks to the subtlety of psychological analysis, the novel occupies a special place in the history of literature and continues to inspire researchers and readers to new discoveries in the world of the human soul.

Psychologism in "Eugene Onegin" is the key means of revealing the personages. Through reflections, feelings, and internal conflicts, Pushkin creates images that remain realistic and alive for the reader. Onegin, Tatyana, Lensky, and other heroes manifest the complexity of human psychology, and the author's commentary strengthens the effect of authenticity.

The novel "Eugene Onegin" is not only a story about love and the fate of individual people, but also a deep work about the life of Russian society of the 19th century. Through the images of Onegin, Tatyana, Lensky, and other personages, Pushkin shows different types of people, their internal experiences, and moral landmarks. The main thought of the novel is that mistakes, underestimation of the feelings of other people, and one's own coldness can lead to tragedy, and real love and sincerity often come too late. Pushkin masterfully combines psychologism, social commentary, and beauty of

language, making the novel relevant to this day.

Thus, psychologism makes the novel not only a narrative work, but also a deep investigation of the human soul, revealing motives, emotions, and internal contradictions of the heroes. Pushkin, as a master of psychological prose, leaves the work relevant and interesting for readers of all eras.

Through the fates of the heroes, Pushkin shows not only personal dramas but also the social contradictions of that time: the difference between city and country life, the role of the family, the influence of society on the individual, and the spiritual and moral values of people. An important theme of the novel is the value of sincerity and spiritual depth, as well as the consequences of delay, indifference, and pride, which can destroy life and leave a feeling of loss.

Conclusion

The language and style of Pushkin make the work especially valuable: the combination of a living, expressive narrative, witty remarks of the author, and psychological depth creates a unique atmosphere. "Eugene Onegin" remains relevant today because it raises eternal questions of human relationships, love, fate, and personal responsibility for one's actions. This novel teaches attentiveness to others' feelings, honesty with oneself, and the fact that the internal world of a person is more important than external glitter and a superficial lifestyle.

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