

**AN EVALUATION OF SAMUEL JOHNSON AS A LITERARY CRITIC****Ibragimova Dilafruz Shukhratovna***Senior Lecturer of the Department**"Practical English",**FSU.***Tukhtasinova Mubina Aziz qizi***Student of the Faculty**English Language and Literature**FSU.*

**Abstract:** *This article delves into the evaluation of Samuel Johnson as a literary critic, examining his literary standards and comparing them with those of contemporary and subsequent critics. It explores Dr. Johnson's qualifications and disqualifications for and standards of literary criticism, and analyzes the innovations that Samuel Johnson introduced as a literary critic, highlighting his impact on the development of literary criticism.*

**Keywords:** *Samuel Johnson, 18th century literature, literary figure, qualification, disqualification, literary criticism, literary standards, comparison with subsequent critics.*

**Izoh:** *Ushbu maqolada Samuel Jonsonni adabiyotshunos sifatida baholash, uning adabiy me'yorlarini o'rganish va ularni zamonaviy va keyingi tanqidchilar bilan solishtirish ko'rib chiqiladi. Unda doktor Jonsonning adabiy tanqidning malakasi va diskvalifikatsiyalari hamda me'yorlari o'rganilib, Samuel Jonson adabiyotshunos sifatida kiritgan yangiliklar tahlil qilinib, uning adabiy tanqid rivojiga ta'siri yoritilgan.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *Samuel Jonson, 18-asr adabiyoti, adabiyot arbobi, malaka, diskvalifikatsiya, adabiy tanqid, adabiy me'yorlar, keyingi tanqidchilar bilan taqqoslash.*

**Аннотация:** *Эта статья углубляется в оценку Самюэля Джонсона как литературного критика, исследуя его литературные стандарты и сравнивая их со стандартами современных и последующих критиков. В нем исследуются квалификация и дисквалификация доктора Джонсона, а также стандарты литературной критики, проливающие свет на уникальную точку зрения, которую он привнес в эту область. В исследовании также анализируются новации, которые привнес Сэмюэл Джонсон как литературный критик, подчеркивая его влияние на развитие литературной критики. Изучая вклад доктора Джонсона в контексте его времени и в сравнении с другими критиками, эта статья дает всестороннее понимание его наследия в сфере литературной критики.*

**Ключевые слова:** *Сэмюэл Джонсон, литература XVIII века, литературный деятель, квалификация, дисквалификация, литературная критика, литературные стандарты, сравнение с последующими критиками.*

Samuel Johnson, an influential figure in 18th-century English literature, made significant contributions as a literary critic. "As a literary critic, Samuel Johnson's influence can still be felt today, shaping our understanding and appreciation of classic works of literature." [1,23]

His critical work, including the famous "Preface to Shakespeare," reflects his comprehensive understanding of literary theory and his discerning analysis of literary works. Johnson's evaluation of Shakespeare's plays, in particular, demonstrated his ability to contextualize the works within their historical and cultural milieu. He focused on the universality of human experience in literature, urging readers to appreciate the enduring themes and moral lessons present in great works. While some contemporary critics have questioned aspects of Johnson's methodology, his impact on literary criticism and his enduring legacy as a major intellectual figure cannot be overstated.

Samuel Johnson made several innovations as a literary critic, particularly during the 18th century. One of his key contributions was his development of a more comprehensive critical method in his approach to literature. Johnson emphasized the examination of a work's moral and ethical significance, looking beyond purely aesthetic considerations. Notably, he focused on the moral lessons and universal human experiences depicted in literary works, advocating for a more thoughtful and reflective approach to literature.

Furthermore, Johnson's critical approach stressed the importance of historical and cultural context. He recognized the significance of understanding the social, political, and cultural milieu in which a literary work was created, encouraging readers to consider these factors when evaluating a text. This contextual approach marked a departure from earlier forms of literary criticism, demonstrating Johnson's innovative perspective on the interpretation of literature. Overall, Johnson's emphasis on moral and universal themes, as well as his attention to historical context, were innovative contributions that left a lasting imprint on the development of literary criticism.

Dr. Samuel Johnson, an influential literary figure of the 18th century, possessed both qualifications and disqualifications for and standards of literary criticism. And there are numerous qualifications and disqualifications:

**Extensive Knowledge:** Johnson's broad knowledge of literature, history, and philosophy equipped him to analyze and critique literary works with depth and insight.

**Command of Language:** Known for his command of the English language, Johnson's own literary prowess informed his critical evaluations of other writers.

**Moral and Ethical Emphasis:** Johnson's moral emphasis in criticism reflected his belief in the importance of literature's ethical and didactic functions, adding valuable layers to his analyses.

**Disqualifications:**

1. **Biases:** Johnson's personal preferences and prejudices, like those against the "metaphysical" poets, occasionally colored his assessments.

2. **Limited Exposure:** His focus on English literature meant that he was less knowledgeable about works from other cultures, potentially limiting the scope of his criticism.

**Standards of Literary Criticism:** Contextual Interpretation: Johnson's criticism emphasized the importance of understanding a work within its historical, social, and cultural context. Moral and Didactic Values: He often evaluated works based on their moral and didactic qualities, believing literature should instruct and improve its audience. Clarity of Expression: Johnson valued clear and precise expression in literary works, which influenced

his assessments of style and language. These qualifications, disqualifications, and standards shaped Johnson's approach to literary criticism, leaving a lasting impact on the field. "Johnson's nuanced approach to criticism reveals his deep respect for the craft of writing and his dedication to upholding standards of excellence in literature." [2, 45-46] Dr. Samuel Johnson's literary standards, as applied to his criticism, can be compared with those of contemporary and subsequent critics to highlight both the enduring and evolving nature of literary evaluation.

Johnson's Literary Standards are contextual interpretation: Johnson emphasized the importance of understanding a work within its historical, social, and cultural context. This standard continues to be valued by contemporary and subsequent critics who recognize the significance of contextual analysis in literary evaluation. Moral and Didactic Values: Johnson often evaluated works based on their moral and didactic qualities, believing literature should instruct and improve its audience. While this moral emphasis has been enduring, subsequent critics have applied a broader scope of interpretative frameworks, including post-structuralist and post-colonial perspectives, to expand the understanding of literary works. Clarity of Expression: Johnson valued clear and precise expression in literary works, which influenced his assessments of style and language, a standard that has persisted and evolved, becoming intertwined with linguistic and stylistic analysis in modern literary criticism.

#### Comparison with Contemporary and Subsequent Critics:

"Johnson's critiques are not merely evaluations of works, but rather insightful reflections on the human condition and the power of storytelling." [3,17] Contemporary and subsequent critics have expanded the criteria for literary evaluation to include themes such as identity, representation, gender, and power dynamics, broadening the scope of analysis beyond the moral and didactic aspects. Additionally, an increased emphasis on intertextuality, reader response, and the influence of socio-political contexts has further evolved modern literary standards.

While Johnson's literary standards laid a foundation for critical analysis, contemporary and subsequent critics have built upon these foundations to incorporate diverse theoretical frameworks and interdisciplinary approaches in their evaluations. The enduring impact of Johnson's standards can be observed in the continued prioritization of contextual understanding and clarity of expression, while modern critics have adapted and expanded these standards to accommodate a broader range of literary perspectives and interpretations.

In conclusion, Samuel Johnson made significant contributions to literary criticism through his comprehensive and insightful approach to evaluating literary works. "Through his critical essays, Samuel Johnson established himself as a formidable voice in the world of literature, with insights that continue to resonate centuries later." [4,47] His emphasis on contextual interpretation, moral and didactic values, and clarity of expression provided a solid foundation for subsequent criticism. While his work reflects both qualifications and disqualifications, including biases and limitations, Johnson's standards have left an enduring mark on literary analysis. When compared with the standards of contemporary and subsequent critics, it is evident that Johnson's principles of contextual interpretation and clarity of expression continue to be valued. However, modern critics have expanded upon these

standards by incorporating diverse theoretical frameworks, interdisciplinary approaches, and broader thematic considerations. Ultimately, Samuel Johnson's lasting influence as a literary critic lies in the enduring relevance of his critical principles and the ways in which they have been adapted and expanded upon by contemporary and subsequent critics, contributing to the ongoing evolution of literary criticism.

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