

LOCAL COLOR WRITINGS IN THE WORKS OF AMERICAN REALISM WRITERS

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Abstract: *This article analysis the theme of Local color writings in the works of American realism writers. It involved the meaning of this style, when it appeared, its main ideas, and how it was used by famous writers in their works. In addition, it gives information about some achievements to literature by using this approach.*

Key words: *Regionalism, Authenticity, Vernacular, Place-based storytelling, Cultural specificity, Folk traditions, Sense of place, Exploration of social customs and norms.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье анализируется тема местного колорита в творчестве американских писателей-реалистов. В нем говорилось о значении этого стиля, о том, когда он появился, о его основных идеях и о том, как его использовали известные писатели в своих произведениях. Кроме того, при использовании данного подхода дается информация о некоторых достижениях литературы.*

Ключевые слова: *регионализм, аутентичность, народный язык, повествование на основе места, культурная специфика, народные традиции, чувство места, исследование социальных обычаев и норм.*

Izoh: *Ushbu maqola "Amerika realizm yozuvchilarining asarlarida mahalliy urf-odatlar, sheva, madaniy o'ziga xoslik mavzusi" ni tahlil qiladi. Unda ushbu uslubning ma'nosi, qachon paydo bo'lganligi, asosiy g'oyalari va mashhur yozuvchilar o'z asarlarida qanday foydalanilganligi o'z ichiga oladi. Qolaversa, ushbu yondashuvdan foydalanib, adabiyotning ba'zi yutuqlari haqida ma'lumot beradi.*

Tayanch iboralar: *Mintaqaviylik, Haqiqiylik, Xalq tili, O'lkaga asoslangan hikoya, Madaniy o'ziga xoslik, Xalq an'analari, Joy hissi, Ijtimoiy urf-odat va me'yorlarni o'rganish.*

INTRODUCTION

Local color writing is a literary movement that emerged in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, often associated with American realism. Writers of this movement sought to capture the unique customs, dialects, landscapes, and characters of specific regions or communities in their works. The theme of local color writings in the works of American realism writers often focuses on the idea of regional identity and the importance of place in shaping individual experiences and identities.

Many American realist writers, such as Mark Twain, Sarah Orne Jewett, Kate Chopin, and Bret Harte, incorporated elements of local color into their works to provide readers with a vivid and authentic portrayal of life in specific regions of the United States. These writers often used regional dialects, descriptions of local landscapes, and depictions of unique cultural traditions to create a sense of place and to explore themes related to community, tradition, and identity.

One example of Mark Twain's work that is related to local color writing in American realism is "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." This novel is set in the American South and vividly portrays the dialects, customs, and landscapes of the region. Twain uses local color to create a realistic and authentic portrayal of life in the antebellum South, capturing the unique culture and identity of the time and place. The use of local color in this novel helps to immerse readers in the setting and bring the characters and their experiences to life. According to William Faulkner: "I'm a writer because of Huckleberry Finn. It's the best book we've had. All American writing comes from that. There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since."

In addition, Sarah Orne Jewett's work, "The Country of the Pointed Firs," is a prime example of local color writing in American realism. Set in a small coastal village in Maine, Jewett captures the unique dialect, customs, and landscape of the region. Her characters are distinctly drawn and reflect the simple, close-knit community that she portrays. Willa Cather expressed her opinion of "The Country of the Pointed Firs" in her book "Not Under Forty". She said that "It is one of the most beautiful and distinguished pieces of American writing that I know. It is a book that can be read and reread with increasing pleasure and profit. There is a kind of serene and classic perfection about it that is very rare in American fiction."

Similarly, Kate Chopin's short story "The Awakening" also exemplifies local color writing in American realism. Set in late 19th century Louisiana, Chopin vividly describes the Creole culture, social norms, and natural surroundings of the region. The characters and their interactions are deeply rooted in their environment, giving a rich sense of time and place to the narrative. Both Jewett and Chopin use local color elements to enhance their storytelling and create a vivid portrait of American life during their respective time periods. Descriptions of the Louisiana landscape: Chopin vividly describes the sights, sounds, and smells of the Louisiana bayou country, where the novel is set. For example, she writes: "The voice of the mocking-bird was heard from the depths of the dim woods; and in the tall grasses by the roadside the katydids rasped like crickets." Use of local dialect: Chopin incorporates elements of the local Cajun dialect into her writing, giving the novel a sense of authenticity and place. For example, the character of Mademoiselle Reisz speaks with a heavy French accent, and she uses words like "lagniappe" and "banquette."

Also, one of Bret Harte's works that exemplifies local color writing in American realism is his short story "The Outcasts of Poker Flat." Set in a small mining town in California during the Gold Rush era, the story vividly portrays the unique customs, dialects, and landscapes of the region. The characters in the story are also representative of the diverse and colorful personalities that populated these frontier towns. Harte's use of regional detail and character development captures the essence of local color writing and provides an authentic

glimpse into a specific time and place in American history. For example, Harte's descriptions of the mining camp are rich in sensory detail, bringing the setting to life for the reader. He describes the "rude cabins" and "heaps of quartz" that make up the camp, as well as the "roaring" of the river and the "creaking" of the windlass. He also includes specific details about the miners' clothing and equipment, such as their "red flannel shirts" and "heavy boots."

Local color writing in American realism refers to the literary movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that focused on some important matters like:

1. Regionalism: Emphasizing the distinct qualities of a particular region or locality, often through detailed descriptions of its people, settings, and cultural traditions. For example, Bret Harte's short story "The Outcasts of Poker Flat" is set in a remote mining camp in the California Gold Rush era. Harte uses vivid descriptions of the setting to create a strong sense of place and atmosphere.

2. Dialect: The way people speak in a specific region, including unique speech patterns, accents, and colloquial expressions. Writers of local color often incorporate authentic dialects to evoke a sense of place. Such as Harte's use of dialect helps to create a vivid and memorable character, and it also gives readers a sense of the local color of the California Gold Rush era.

3. Setting: The physical environment in which a story takes place, including details such as landscape, architecture, climate, and geography. Local color writers pay close attention to depicting setting to create a vivid sense of place. As an example, Harte's describes the "rude cabins" and "heaps of quartz" that make up the camp, as well as the "roaring" of the river and the "creaking" of the windlass. He also includes specific details about the miners' clothing and equipment, such as their "red flannel shirts" and "heavy boots."

4. Characterization: Creating believable and authentic characters that embody the traits and values of a specific region or community. Local color writers often use distinctive personalities and behaviors to reflect the cultural norms of their chosen locale. Like Harte's characters are equally well-developed, and they embody the rough-and-tumble spirit of the mining camp. The protagonist, Kentuck, is a kind-hearted and generous gambler, while the other miners are a colorful cast of characters, including a preacher, a blacksmith, and a dance-hall girl. Harte gives each character a unique voice and personality, and their interactions create a lively and authentic portrayal of life in the mining camp.

5. Cultural traditions: Highlighting the customs, rituals, folklore, cuisine, music, and other cultural elements that define a particular region's identity. These traditions play a significant role in shaping the narratives of local color works. For example, In Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn**, the character of Jim is a runaway slave who follows his own code of honor and loyalty. Jim's adherence to his cultural traditions, even in the face of danger and adversity, is a powerful example of the strength and resilience of African American culture.

Overall, local color writing in American realism captures the essence of different regions by focusing on specific details that make each place unique and memorable. Through

these key elements like regionalism, dialects, settings characterization and cultural traditions writers bring their stories to life with vibrant authenticity.

In conclusion, the theme of local color writings is a significant aspect of American realism literature. Local color writers have taught us the importance of embracing diversity, celebrating our cultural heritage, and preserving our natural environment. Their work reminds us that even in a rapidly changing world, there is still much to be learned from the unique experiences and perspectives of different communities. Additionally, local color writers have made an invaluable contribution to American literature by capturing the rich tapestry of our nation's diverse cultures and traditions. Their work continues to inspire and entertain readers today, reminding us of the beauty and complexity of the human experience.

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