

JAMES JOYCE'S WORKS AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Gadoyboyeva Gulirano Shavkat qizi

UzSWLU English faculty №3, 2nd course Tashkent. Uzbekistan

Karimov Ulug'bek Nusratovich

Scientific advisor: Associated Professor (PhD) at UzSWLU

Annotation: *The main purpose of the article is to study James Joyce's life, work, main works, and author's writing style and contribution to literature, as well as one of his main works "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man".*

Keywords: *modernist, literature, mythology, biography, works, novelist, satire, comedy, protagonist.*

James Joyce was accounted, a modernist novelist. He combined stream-of-consciousness, absurdist drama, mythical parallelism, and other techniques in a formal *mélange* that has had a profound impact on other modernists and future generations of novelists.

There are a lot of contributions of James Joyce to English literature. For instance, Joyce endorsed modernist avant-garde dramas in the 20th century. He is considered an influential writer of the Modernist literary tradition. He is best known for his novel *Ulysses* which had ostensible thematic equivalence with Homer's *Odyssey*. This novel also exemplifies the prominent technique of stream of consciousness in literature.

Joyce used a stream of consciousness to show how his characters thought about life. He satirized people and events. He mocked his friends and relatives freely. He adapted Greek mythology and Irish epic to his own fiction. He described the travels of a modern person through a modern city so that it could be reproduced if some accident occurred, causing annihilation.⁸

James Joyce started to create his works in childhood. For example, in 1891, nine-year-old Joyce wrote the poem "Et Tu, Healy" on the death of Charles Stewart Parnell that his father printed and distributed to friends. The poem expressed the sentiments of the elder Joyce, who was angry at Parnell's apparent betrayal by the Irish Catholic Church, the Irish Parliamentary Party, and the British Liberal Party which resulted in a collaborative failure to secure Irish Home Rule in the British Parliament. This sense of betrayal, particularly by the church, left a lasting impression that Joyce expressed in his life and art. After that, he wrote many novels, short stories. There are several major works of him have been demonstrated.

Dubliners is a collection of 15 short stories first published in 1914 and is a naturalistic depiction of Irish middle-class life in and around the city in the early 20th

⁸ Fargnoli, A. Nicholas; Gillespie, Michael Patrick (2006). *Critical Companion to James Joyce: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work*. Infobase Publishing.

century. These stories were written at a time when Irish nationalism and the pursuit of national identity were at their height. Joyce sees this mirror of identity as the first step towards the spiritual liberation of the Irish. The story focuses on Joyce's ideas about enlightenment. This is the moment when the character experiences a life-changing self or enlightenment. Many Dublin characters later appeared in minor roles in Joyce's novel "Ulysses". In the original story, the protagonist talks like a child. The story then touches on the lives and fears of the parents. This coincides with the division of the Joyce collection into three parts: childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, published in 1916, is a shortened rewrite of the abandoned novel Stephen Hero. It is a *Künstlerroman*, a kind of coming-of-age novel depicting the childhood and adolescence of the protagonist Stephen Dedalus and his gradual growth into artistic self-consciousness. It functions both as an autobiographical fiction of the author and a biography of the fictional protagonist. Some hints of the techniques Joyce frequently employed in later works, such as stream of consciousness, interior monologue, and references to a character's psychic reality rather than to his external surroundings are evident throughout this novel.⁹

Despite an early interest in the theatre, Joyce published only one play, *Exiles*, begun shortly after the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 and published in 1918. A study of a husband-and-wife relationship, the play looks back to *The Dead* (the final story in *Dubliners*) and forward to *Ulysses*, which Joyce began around the time of the play's composition. He published three books of poetry. The first full-length collection was *Chamber Music* (1907), which consisted of 36 short lyrics. It led to his inclusion in the *Imagist Anthology*, edited by Ezra Pound, a champion of Joyce's work. Other poetry Joyce published in his lifetime includes "Gas from a Burner" (1912), *Pomes Penyeach* (1927), and "Ecce Puer" (written in 1932 to mark the birth of his grandson and the recent death of his father). These were published by the Black Sun Press in *Collected Poems* (1936).¹⁰

The action of *Ulysses* starts on 16 June 1904 at 8 am and ends sometime after 2 am the following morning. Much of it occurs inside the minds of the characters, who are portrayed through techniques such as interior monologue, dialogue, and soliloquy. The novel consists of 18 episodes, each covering roughly one hour of the day using a unique literary style. Joyce structured each chapter to refer to an individual episode in Homer's *Odyssey*, as well as a specific color, a particular art or science, and a bodily organ. *Ulysses* sets the characters and incidents of Homer's *Odyssey* in 1904 Dublin, representing Odysseus (*Ulysses*), Penelope, and Telemachus in the characters of Leopold Bloom, his wife Molly Bloom, and Stephen Dedalus. It uses humor, including parody, satire, and comedy, to contrast the novel's characters with their Homeric

⁹ Wollaeger, Mark A. (2003). *James Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man: A Casebook*. Oxford University Press.

¹⁰ Tindall, William York. *The Joyce Country*. University Park, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1960.

models. Joyce played down the mythic correspondences by eliminating the chapter titles so the work could be read independently of its Homeric structure.

Ulysses can be read as a study of Dublin in 1904, exploring various aspects of the city's life, dwelling on its squalor and monotony. Joyce claimed that if Dublin were to be destroyed in some catastrophe, it could be rebuilt using his work as a model. To achieve this sense of detail, he relied on his memory, what he heard other people remember, and his readings to create a sense of fastidious detail. Joyce regularly used the 1904 edition of Thom's Directory—a work that listed the owners and tenants of every residential and commercial property in the city—to ensure his descriptions were accurate. This combination of kaleidoscopic writing, reliance on a formal schema to structure the narrative, and exquisite attention to detail represent one of the book's major contributions to the development of 20th-century modernist literature.

Finnegans Wake is an experimental novel that pushes stream-of-consciousness and literary allusions to their extremes. Although the work can be read from beginning to end, Joyce's writing transforms traditional ideas of plot and character development through his wordplay, allowing the book to be read nonlinearly. Much of the wordplay stems from the work being written in peculiar and obscure English, based mainly on complex multilevel puns. This approach is similar to, but far more extensive than, that used by Lewis Carroll in *Jabberwocky* and draws on a wide range of languages. The associative nature of its language has led to it being interpreted as the story of a dream.

The metaphysics of Giordano Bruno of Nola, whom Joyce had read in his youth, plays an important role in *Finnegans Wake*, as it provides the framework for how the identities of the characters interplay and are transformed. Giambattista Vico's cyclical view of history (in which civilization rises from the chaos, passes through theocratic, aristocratic, and democratic phases, and then lapses back into chaos) structures the text's narrative, as evidenced by the opening and closing words of the book: *Finnegans Wake* opens with the words "riverrun, past Eve and Adam's, from swerve of shore to bend of bay, brings us by a commodious vicus of recirculation back to Howth Castle and Environs" and ends "A way a lone a last a loved along the". In other words, the book ends with the beginning of a sentence and begins with the end of the same sentence, turning the narrative into one great cycle.¹¹

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