

THE MAIN IDEA OF ENLIGHTENMENT IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Abstract. This article discusses about the importance of Enlightenment in English literature and also given clever information about this time which has characteristic points and original aspects, as well as, told about the general period of the Enlightenment.

Key words: literature, periods, intellectual freedom, development, Immanuel Kant.

ОСНОВНАЯ ИДЕЯ ПРОСВЕЩЕНИЯ В АНГЛОЯЗЫЧНОЙ ЛИТЕРАТУРЕ

Аннотация. В этой статье обсуждается важность Просвещения в английской литературе, а также дается интересная информация об этом времени, имеющая характерные моменты и оригинальные аспекты, а также рассказывается об общем периоде Просвещения.

Ключевые слова: литература, периоды, интеллектуальная свобода, развитие, Иммануил Кант.

One of the most significant historical and cultural developments in human civilization is the Age of Enlightenment, which took place in England and Europe throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. This era was chosen, along with the corresponding works and their authors, because of the shifts that took place in the literary world, showcasing innovative ideas, fresh takes on genres and storytelling, and a redefinition of writing concepts that have paved the way for much of what is known in the modern world. The two most influential works of Enlightenment English literature were Gulliver's Travels by Swift and Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe. These works were widely praised by readers and academics alike for their portrayals of this pivotal period.

The 18th-century Enlightenment was a broad intellectual and scholarly movement that challenged superstition and advanced reason and science. René Descartes, John Lock, Immanuel Kant, Leibniz, Montesquieu, Voltaire, and other notable intellectuals from Europe and America embraced this intellectual movement. In the annals of European culture, the 17th and 18th centuries are referred to as the Enlightenment. Man and his nature was the core issue of the Enlightenment

thought. The Enlightenment in England came after the bourgeois revolution. As a result, compared to the French Enlightenment, the objectives of the English Enlighteners were less revolutionary. Prose took the place of the lyrical forms of the Renaissance during the Age of Enlightenment. The moralizing fiction rose to prominence at this time. The authors wanted to raise people's values and the standard of living in society as a whole. Three periods can be distinguished in English literature from the Enlightenment era: Early Enlightenment (1688-1740). Numerous newspapers and journals started to develop at that period. The humorous moralizing newspapers edited by Richard Steels and Joseph Addison were the most well-liked. In their essays, they discussed a range of real-world issues. Mature Enlightenment (1740-1750).

During this time, the social moralizing novel emerged. The writings of authors like Tobias Smollett, Henry Fielding, and Samuel Richardson served as its representatives. The finest literature from the English Enlightenment was produced by Henry Fielding. He painted a portrait of the eighteenth century. He also outlined the primary criteria that the book needed to fulfill: it was to mimic real life, depict the diversity of human nature, reveal the causes and origins of human weakness, and suggest solutions. Late Enlightenment (Sentimentalism) (1750-1780). The democratic bourgeois impulses of the time were expressed by the writers of this era. They also looked for a solution to the problems with the current system. However, they place sentiments ahead of reason. Richard Sheridan, Oliver Goldsmith, and Lawrence Sterne were the main proponents of sentimentalism in theater. According to Immanuel Kant, enlightenment was the result of humanity breaking free from its own self-imposed tutelage. In other words, before enlightenment, man had somehow imprisoned himself in a mental straightjacket, but enlightenment gave rise to an intellectual freedom that allowed him to finally stop depending on rulers, priests, God, and other authorities and start thinking for himself. Throughout the 18th century, a broad intellectual and scholarly movement known as the Enlightenment opposed superstition and pushed for reason and science. Prominent thinkers from Europe and America, including Immanuel Kant, René Descartes, John Locke, Newton, and others, backed this intellectual movement. The thinkers of the Enlightenment saw themselves as ushering in a period of benevolent, logical, and social improvement supported by the expanding capacity of human reason.

Enlightenment's primary goal is to advance logic and reason. Individuals in the 18th century thought it was critical to exercise independent judgment. They were unable to obtain the truth by merely consulting books or establishments such as churches. They must critique the current authority. Rather than viewing faith as conventional Christendom and the ultimate source of truth, people were forced to apply reason to the presented data. Following his discussion of the principles

of gravity and his discovery of the laws of mechanism, Newton rose to prominence as one of the great thinkers of the Enlightenment. Today, many ask themselves if Newton could have found the laws of the universe using only reason, experimentation, and by utilizing their own reason and observation, individuals can also go on to comprehend nature and alter it for the benefit of humans. Enlightenment signifies the shift away from a primarily religious perspective. When Milton was alive, people still believed in Satan, in witches and demons, in burning in hell for all eternity, and other such beliefs. People were still Christian and religious by the end of the 18th century, but due to the developing Enlightenment tendency, they had a naturalistic and secular perspective on religion. People were considering what men could accomplish on their own through the application of reason.

Reliance on reason was nothing new; Aristotle and Plato, among other classical philosophers, had argued that reason was the means by which we may discover universal truths. Christian philosophy of the Middle Ages acknowledged reason as a necessary component of a true spiritual mindset, but it was merely a component and needed to be subordinated to faith and revelation. However, the Enlightenment's emphasis on reason as the primary means of knowledge acquisition during the 18th century was novel. Reason is sufficient for Enlightenment thinkers; faith or revelation from God are not necessary. More significantly, relying on reason reduced reliance on political, religious, or other authoritative figures, as well as on the state.

In summary, the Enlightenment brought with it a comprehensive understanding of how each individual may improve. A pivotal period in history, the Enlightenment is sometimes seen as a gateway to modernity. A number of contemporary historical events were influenced by the Enlightenment principles. Enlightenment ideas have had a major influence on current culture, which is fact-based and technologically advanced. The Enlightenment worldview was typified by a move away from religion as the main source of authority and toward individualism, tolerance, human reason, scientific advancement, and exploration all characteristics of the contemporary world.

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