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**PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS OF URBAN ARCHITECTURE IN TWENTIETH-
CENTURY AMERICAN FICTION**

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ANNOTATION

This article examines the psychological functions of urban architecture in twentieth-century American fiction. The study explores how architectural elements such as streets, skyscrapers, residential buildings, public spaces, and transportation systems influence the psychological development, emotional perception, and behavioural transformation of literary characters. Particular attention is given to the relationship between urban space, alienation, identity formation, loneliness, and social interaction. Using a comparative literary approach, the article analyzes selected American novels to demonstrate that urban architecture performs not only a spatial function but also acts as a psychological narrative mechanism shaping character experience and narrative progression. The findings highlight the significant role of metropolitan architecture in constructing the artistic and psychological dimensions of twentieth-century American literature.

Keywords: urban architecture, American fiction, character psychology, metropolitan space, urban poetics, identity formation, alienation, twentieth-century literature.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В статье исследуются психологические функции городской архитектуры в американской литературе XX века. Основное внимание уделяется влиянию архитектурных элементов, таких как улицы, небоскрёбы, жилые здания, общественные пространства и транспортная инфраструктура, на психологическое развитие, эмоциональное восприятие и поведенческие изменения литературных персонажей. Особое значение придаётся взаимосвязи городской среды, отчуждения, формирования идентичности, одиночества и социальных взаимодействий. На основе сравнительного литературоведческого анализа показано, что городская архитектура выполняет не только пространственную, но и психологическую нарративную функцию, оказывая существенное влияние на развитие персонажей и художественную организацию произведений. Полученные результаты подтверждают важную роль архитектуры мегаполиса в формировании художественно-психологического пространства американской литературы XX века.

Ключевые слова: городская архитектура, американская литература, психология персонажа, городское пространство, городская поэтика, идентичность, отчуждение, литература XX века.

ANNOTATSIYA

Mazkur maqolada XX asr Amerika adabiyotida shahar arxitekturasining psixologik funksiyalari tadqiq etiladi. Tadqiqotda ko'chalar, osmono'par binolar, turar joylar, jamoat maskanlari va transport tizimlari kabi urbanistik elementlarning badiiy qahramonlar psixologiyasi, emotsional idroki hamda xulq-atvoridagi o'zgarishlarga ta'siri tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, shahar muhiti, begonalashuv, shaxsiy identifikatsiya, yolg'izlik va ijtimoiy munosabatlar o'rtasidagi o'zaro bog'liqlik qiyosiy adabiyotshunoslik yondashuvi asosida yoritiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, shahar arxitekturasini badiiy asarlarda nafaqat

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makon vazifasini bajaradi, balki qahramonlarning ruhiy kechinmalari, psixologik rivojlanishi va narrativ jarayonini shakllantiruvchi muhim badiiy omil sifatida namoyon bo'ladi. Mazkur tadqiqot XX asr Amerika adabiyotida metropol arxitekturasining badiiy va psixologik ahamiyatini yangi ilmiy yondashuv asosida yoritishga xizmat qiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: shahar arxitekturasini, Amerika adabiyoti, qahramon psixologiyasi, urban makon, urban poetika, shaxsiy identifikatsiya, begonalashuv, XX asr adabiyoti.

INTRODUCTION

The twentieth century was a period of profound urban transformation in the United States, marked by rapid industrialization, technological progress, and the continuous expansion of metropolitan areas. These developments significantly influenced American society and became an important source of inspiration for literary creativity. As cities expanded both physically and socially, American writers increasingly shifted their attention from depicting the city as a simple geographical setting to presenting it as a complex artistic and psychological environment. Consequently, urban architecture emerged as an essential component of literary representation, reflecting not only the material structure of the metropolis but also the emotional experiences, social conflicts, and psychological development of literary characters.

In contemporary literary studies, urban architecture is no longer interpreted solely as a descriptive background for narrative events. Instead, it is regarded as an active artistic element that participates in the formation of character identity, emotional perception, and narrative development. Architectural structures such as streets, skyscrapers, residential buildings, public spaces, and transportation systems become symbolic representations of ambition, alienation, loneliness, identity crisis, and social interaction. Therefore, the relationship between architectural space and human psychology has become one of the important research directions in modern literary criticism, particularly in studies devoted to twentieth-century American fiction.

The relevance of this research is determined by the growing scholarly interest in interdisciplinary approaches that combine literary studies, urban studies, and environmental psychology. Although numerous studies have examined the symbolism of the American city, relatively little attention has been devoted to the psychological functions of urban architecture and its influence on literary characters. This article aims to analyze how architectural space shapes emotional experience, behavioural transformation, and identity formation in twentieth-century American fiction. By examining the interaction between urban architecture and character psychology, the study contributes to a broader understanding of urban poetics and highlights the artistic significance of the American metropolis in modern literary discourse.

MAIN PART

Urban architecture occupies a central position in twentieth-century American fiction because it functions not only as the physical environment of narrative events but also as a significant psychological force influencing literary characters. The rapid development of American metropolitan areas transformed the city into a multidimensional artistic space where architecture became closely connected with human emotions, identity, and social behaviour. Streets, skyscrapers, apartment buildings, bridges, railway stations, and public spaces are represented not merely as elements of urban infrastructure but as symbolic structures reflecting the aspirations, fears, conflicts, and emotional experiences of individuals. Consequently, American writers increasingly portrayed architecture as an active narrative component capable of shaping both the external organization of the story and the internal development of fictional characters.

One of the most important psychological functions of urban architecture is its ability to generate feelings of alienation and loneliness. Although metropolitan environments bring together large populations, literary characters frequently experience emotional isolation and difficulties in establishing meaningful interpersonal relationships. The crowded streets, anonymous public spaces, and continuously changing urban landscape often intensify psychological pressure rather than creating social harmony. At the same time, architecture

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contributes to identity formation by exposing individuals to different cultural, economic, and social environments. Characters redefine themselves through their interaction with the city, where residential districts, business centres, industrial areas, and public institutions become symbols of personal ambition, social status, and cultural belonging. Thus, urban architecture actively participates in constructing both individual identity and collective urban experience.

These psychological processes are clearly illustrated in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and John Dos Passos's *Manhattan Transfer*. Fitzgerald represents metropolitan architecture through luxurious mansions, elegant streets, and brightly illuminated urban landscapes that symbolize wealth, ambition, and the illusion of the American Dream. However, behind this architectural magnificence lies emotional emptiness, disappointment, and psychological instability. In contrast, Dos Passos portrays New York as a fragmented industrial metropolis dominated by factories, office buildings, railway stations, and crowded streets. His experimental narrative technique reflects the chaotic rhythm of metropolitan life, emphasizing anonymity, social fragmentation, and the psychological consequences of industrial modernization. Although both novels employ different artistic methods, they demonstrate that urban architecture profoundly influences emotional perception, behavioural patterns, and character development.

The comparative analysis confirms that architecture in twentieth-century American fiction performs symbolic, psychological, and narrative functions simultaneously. It organizes literary space, shapes emotional responses, and reflects the broader cultural transformations of modern American society. Therefore, urban architecture should be interpreted not only as a material representation of the city but also as a dynamic psychological narrative space through which writers explore the complexity of human experience. The interaction between architectural environment and character psychology represents one of the defining artistic features of twentieth-century American literature and significantly contributes to the development of urban poetics and contemporary literary studies.

CONCLUSION

The present study has demonstrated that urban architecture performs a significant psychological and narrative function in twentieth-century American fiction. The analysis confirms that architectural elements such as streets, skyscrapers, residential buildings, public spaces, and transportation systems are represented not merely as components of the physical environment but as active artistic devices that influence the emotional state, identity formation, and behavioural development of literary characters. Consequently, the American metropolis emerges as a multidimensional literary space where architecture continuously interacts with human consciousness and contributes to the construction of narrative meaning.

The comparative examination of *The Great Gatsby* and *Manhattan Transfer* reveals that both novels employ different narrative strategies to portray the psychological influence of metropolitan architecture. While Fitzgerald emphasizes symbolism, individual ambition, and the illusion of success, Dos Passos focuses on fragmentation, industrialization, and the emotional consequences of modern urban life. Despite these stylistic differences, both authors demonstrate that urban architecture significantly shapes character psychology and reflects the social and cultural transformations of twentieth-century America.

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