A STUDY OF HUMAN NATURE AND MORAL CONFLICT IN WILLIAM GOLDING'S LORD OF THE FLIES

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Annotation: This study examines the representation of human nature and moral conflict in William Golding's novel Lord of the Flies, one of the significant works of modern English literature. The research focuses on the conflict between civilization and savagery, the relationship between individual morality and collective behavior, and the influence of fear, power, and social pressure on human actions. Particular attention is given to the symbolic significance of the conch shell, the signal fire, Piggy's glasses, and the Lord of the Flies. The study also analyzes the characters of Ralph, Jack, Piggy, Simon, and Roger to explore their different attitudes toward leadership, responsibility, rationality, and violence. Through literary, philosophical, and psychological analysis, the research demonstrates how Golding questions the stability of civilization and examines the destructive potential of human behavior. The findings emphasize the importance of moral responsibility, empathy, rational thinking, and cooperation in maintaining social order. The study concludes that Lord of the Flies remains relevant to contemporary society because it explores universal questions concerning good and evil, human instincts, ethical choices, and the relationship between individuals and society.

Keywords: William Golding, Lord of the Flies, human nature, moral conflict, civilization, savagery, symbolism, allegory, good and evil, human psychology, social order, individual responsibility, power, fear, modern English literature.

UILYAM GOLDINGNING «PASHSHALAR HUKMDORI» ROMANIDA INSON TABIATI VA AXLOQIY ZIDDIYATLARNI O‘RGANISH.

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola zamonaviy ingliz adabiyotining muhim asarlaridan biri bo‘lgan Uilyam Goldingning “Pashshalar hukmdori” (Lord of the Flies) romanida inson tabiati va axloqiy ziddiyatlarning badiiy ifodasini o‘rganishga bag‘ishlangan. Tadqiqotda sivilizatsiya va vahshiylik o‘rtasidagi qarama-qarshilik, individual axloq va jamoaviy xulq-atvor munosabatlari, shuningdek, qo‘rquv, hokimiyat va ijtimoiy bosimning inson xatti-harakatlariga ta’siri tahlil qilinadi. Asardagi chig‘anoq, qutqaruv olovi, Piggiyning ko‘zoynagi va Pashshalar hukmdori kabi ramziy obrazlarning g‘oyaviy-badiiy ahamiyatiga alohida e’tibor qaratiladi. Shuningdek, Ralf, Jek, Piggi, Saymon va Rojer obrazlari orqali yetakchilik, mas’uliyat, aql-idrok, zo‘ravonlik va axloqiy tanlov masalalari yoritiladi. Tadqiqotning maqsadi Goldingning inson tabiatiga oid falsafiy qarashlarini ochib berish hamda jamiyatdagi axloqiy me’yorlarning zaiflashuvi qanday oqibatlarga olib kelishini aniqlashdan iborat. Tahlil natijalari insonning axloqiy mas’uliyati, o‘zini boshqara bilishi, hamdardligi va o‘zaro hamkorligi ijtimoiy tartibni saqlashda muhim ahamiyatga ega ekanini ko‘rsatadi. Xulosa qilib aytganda, “Pashshalar hukmdori” romani ezgulik va yovuzlik, insoniy instinktlar, axloqiy tanlov hamda shaxs va jamiyat munosabatlari kabi umuminsoniy muammolarni yorituvchi muhim badiiy asar hisoblanadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Uilyam Golding, “Pashshalar hukmdori”, inson tabiati, axloqiy ziddiyat, sivilizatsiya, vahshiylik, ramziylik, allegoriya, ezgulik va yovuzlik, inson psixologiyasi, ijtimoiy tartib, shaxsiy mas’uliyat, hokimiyat, qo‘rquv, zamonaviy ingliz adabiyoti.

ИЗУЧЕНИЕ ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКОЙ ПРИРОДЫ И НРАВСТВЕННОГО КОНФЛИКТА В РОМАНЕ УИЛЬЯМА ГОЛДИНГА ПОВЕЛИТЕЛЬ МУХ.

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Аннотация: Данное исследование посвящено изучению изображения человеческой природы и нравственных конфликтов в романе Уильяма Голдинга «Повелитель мух» (Lord of the Flies), одному из значимых произведений современной английской литературы. В работе рассматриваются противоречия между цивилизацией и дикостью, взаимосвязь индивидуальной морали и коллективного поведения, а также влияние страха, власти и социального давления на поступки человека. Особое внимание уделяется символическому значению раковины, сигнального костра, очков Хрюши и образа Повелителя мух. Кроме того, анализируются образы Ральфа, Джека, Хрюши, Саймона и Роджера, раскрывающие различные аспекты лидерства, ответственности, рационального мышления, насилия и нравственного выбора. Цель исследования заключается в выявлении философских взглядов Уильяма Голдинга на человеческую природу и определении последствий разрушения моральных норм в обществе. Результаты анализа показывают, что нравственная ответственность, самоконтроль, сочувствие и сотрудничество играют важную роль в поддержании общественного порядка. Делается вывод о том, что роман «Повелитель мух» сохраняет свою актуальность благодаря глубокому осмыслению универсальных проблем добра и зла, человеческих инстинктов, нравственного выбора и взаимоотношений личности и общества.

Ключевые слова: Уильям Голдинг, «Повелитель мух», человеческая природа, нравственный конфликт, цивилизация, дикость, символизм,

аллегория, добро и зло, психология человека, общественный порядок, личная ответственность, власть, страх, современная английская литература.

William Golding's Lord of the Flies is one of the most significant novels in modern English literature, offering a profound philosophical and psychological exploration of human nature, moral conflict, civilization, and the relationship between individuals and society. Published in 1954, the novel examines the behavior of a group of schoolboys who become stranded on an uninhabited island after a plane crash. Separated from the rules, institutions, and social expectations of adult society, the boys attempt to establish their own community. However, their initial efforts to create an organized and peaceful society gradually deteriorate into fear, violence, rivalry, and savagery. Through this transformation, Golding raises fundamental questions about the nature of humanity, the origins of evil, the significance of moral responsibility, and the fragility of civilization. The central concern of the novel is the conflict between the civilized and the primitive aspects of human nature. Golding challenges the traditional assumption that evil is primarily the result of external social conditions or inadequate education. Instead, he suggests that destructive tendencies may exist within human beings and can emerge when social restrictions and moral authority weaken. The island, initially presented as a place of freedom and opportunity, gradually becomes a setting in which the boys' hidden fears, selfish desires, and aggressive instincts become increasingly visible. The novel therefore demonstrates that civilization depends not only on laws and institutions but also on individuals' willingness to exercise self-control, respect others, and accept moral responsibility. The significance of Lord of the Flies lies in its ability to connect a seemingly simple survival narrative with complex philosophical questions. Although the principal characters are children, their experiences reflect broader patterns of human behavior. Their struggle to establish leadership, maintain order, obtain food, and protect themselves reveals the difficulties associated with creating a stable society. The novel explores how fear can influence decision-making, how power can become a source of

domination, and how collective beliefs may encourage individuals to participate in actions they would otherwise consider unacceptable. In this respect, Golding's work extends beyond the experiences of the boys and offers a critical reflection on human society as a whole. One of the most important themes in the novel is the relationship between human nature and moral development. At the beginning of the narrative, Ralph and Piggy attempt to organize the boys according to principles of cooperation, responsibility, and rational decision-making. Ralph represents the desire to maintain order, while Piggy emphasizes the importance of reason, knowledge, and practical thinking. The conch shell, which is used to call meetings and regulate discussion, becomes a powerful symbol of democratic authority and social unity. Its importance depends on the boys' willingness to recognize shared rules and respect one another's right to speak. As their commitment to these principles weakens, the conch gradually loses its authority, illustrating the vulnerability of social institutions when people no longer believe in their legitimacy. In contrast, Jack represents the growing influence of domination, aggression, and the desire for personal power. His increasing interest in hunting and his ability to exploit the other boys' fears gradually undermine Ralph's leadership. Jack's authority is based less on rational discussion than on promises of protection, excitement, and material rewards. Through the opposition between Ralph and Jack, Golding examines two competing approaches to social organization: one based on cooperation and collective responsibility, and another founded on force, obedience, and the satisfaction of immediate desires. Nevertheless, the novel does not present human behavior as a simple opposition between completely good and completely evil individuals. Instead, it demonstrates that moral choices are influenced by fear, circumstances, group pressure, and the willingness to resist destructive impulses. Another essential aspect of the novel is the representation of fear as a force that shapes individual and collective behavior. The boys become increasingly frightened by the possibility of a mysterious creature inhabiting the island. Although the supposed beast is never established as

a conventional external monster, the boys' belief in its existence has significant consequences for their community. Fear weakens rational thought, encourages superstition, and allows certain characters to gain influence by presenting themselves as protectors. The beast can therefore be interpreted as a symbol of the darkness within human nature. Through this symbol, Golding suggests that people may project their inner anxieties and aggressive impulses onto imaginary external threats rather than confront the sources of their fear within themselves. Simon's character provides a particularly important philosophical perspective on this issue. Unlike many of the other boys, Simon possesses a sensitive and contemplative personality. He recognizes that the beast may not be an external creature but something connected with the boys themselves. His understanding anticipates one of the novel's central ideas: the possibility that evil is not an independent force existing outside humanity but an aspect of human nature. Simon's encounter with the pig's head, referred to as the Lord of the Flies, intensifies this interpretation. The head becomes a disturbing symbol of corruption, violence, and the destructive impulses that the boys attempt to deny. Simon's insight contrasts sharply with the group's growing irrationality and emphasizes the difficulty of recognizing moral truth in an atmosphere dominated by fear and collective excitement. The novel also explores the relationship between individual responsibility and group behavior. As the boys become more deeply involved in tribal rituals and collective activities, their capacity for independent moral judgment gradually declines. Participation in the group provides them with a sense of belonging and protection, but it also allows them to distance themselves from the consequences of their actions. The hunting dances and violent rituals illustrate how collective excitement can weaken personal responsibility and make cruelty appear acceptable. Golding consequently raises an important ethical question: to what extent can individuals be held responsible when their actions are encouraged or normalized by a group? The novel suggests that social influence can explain destructive behavior, but it does not necessarily remove the moral responsibility of those who participate in it.

The historical context of the novel also contributes to its philosophical significance. Written in the aftermath of the Second World War, Lord of the Flies reflects widespread concerns about violence, authoritarianism, and the capacity of supposedly civilized societies to commit acts of extreme cruelty. The experience of global conflict challenged the belief that scientific progress, education, and technological development automatically lead to moral improvement. Golding's novel responds to this historical reality by questioning optimistic assumptions about human progress. The boys' descent into violence suggests that the outward appearance of civilization may conceal unresolved conflicts and destructive tendencies. In this sense, the island functions not merely as a remote geographical setting but also as a symbolic representation of society under conditions in which established authority and moral restraints have collapsed. Furthermore, Golding's use of symbolism, characterization, and setting contributes significantly to the novel's thematic depth. The island initially appears to be a paradise, offering the boys freedom from adult supervision. However, this attractive environment gradually becomes associated with danger, disorder, and destruction. The contrast between the island's natural beauty and the violence committed by its inhabitants reinforces the idea that a peaceful environment cannot guarantee peaceful human relationships. Similarly, the conch, the signal fire, Piggy's glasses, and the Lord of the Flies carry meanings that extend beyond their literal functions. These objects help Golding explore the relationships between authority, rationality, hope, knowledge, fear, and moral decline. The symbolic structure of the novel enables the author to communicate complex philosophical ideas through concrete images and events. The conflict between civilization and savagery is further developed through the changing relationships among the principal characters. Ralph's efforts to maintain the signal fire demonstrate his awareness of the importance of rescue and connection with the wider human world. Piggy's insistence on reason and order reveals his dependence on established social principles, while Jack's growing influence demonstrates the attraction of immediate power and physical strength.

Roger, meanwhile, represents the increasingly deliberate expression of cruelty as the restrictions that initially restrain him disappear. The contrasting development of these characters enables Golding to examine different responses to the same social conditions. Their actions demonstrate that human behavior is shaped by both individual dispositions and the surrounding environment, while also highlighting the importance of moral choice.

The academic study of Lord of the Flies is important because the novel brings together literary, philosophical, psychological, and sociological perspectives. From a literary standpoint, it illustrates how allegory and symbolism can communicate complex ideas about society and humanity. From a philosophical perspective, it raises questions about the origins of evil, the nature of morality, and the conditions necessary for social order. From a psychological perspective, it examines the influence of fear, aggression, identity, and group pressure on individual conduct. From a sociological perspective, it explores the emergence of leadership, the formation of social hierarchies, and the breakdown of shared norms. Considering these perspectives together provides a more comprehensive understanding of Golding's representation of human nature. The relevance of the novel extends beyond its historical period. Contemporary societies continue to experience conflicts involving political authority, social division, collective fear, discrimination, and the abuse of power. Although the circumstances of modern life differ significantly from those depicted in the novel, Golding's exploration of the relationship between individual behavior and collective responsibility remains meaningful. The novel encourages readers to question whether social stability can be maintained through external rules alone or whether it also requires internal moral discipline, empathy, and respect for others. It also invites reflection on the dangers of allowing fear and the desire for power to replace rational judgment and ethical responsibility.

The present study focuses on the representation of human nature and moral conflict in William Golding's Lord of the Flies. It examines how the author

presents the tension between civilization and savagery, reason and instinct, individual conscience and collective pressure. Particular attention is given to the symbolic significance of the major characters and objects, the development of leadership and social relationships, and the role of fear in the breakdown of moral order. Through close textual analysis, the study seeks to explain how Golding constructs a literary representation of humanity in which the possibility of cooperation exists alongside the potential for violence and destruction.

In conclusion, William Golding's Lord of the Flies represents a significant contribution to modern English literature because of its profound exploration of human nature, moral conflict, civilization, and the psychological foundations of human behavior. Through the experiences of a group of schoolboys stranded on an uninhabited island, Golding examines how individuals behave when the rules, institutions, and social expectations of civilized society lose their authority. The novel demonstrates that the establishment of a peaceful community depends not only on external regulations but also on individual morality, mutual respect, rational thinking, and a sense of responsibility. By presenting the gradual transformation of the boys from an organized group into a violent and divided community, the author raises important questions about the relationship between human instincts and civilized behavior. The analysis of the novel reveals that the conflict between civilization and savagery constitutes its central thematic concern. Through the contrasting characters of Ralph and Jack, Golding illustrates two different approaches to social organization and leadership. Ralph represents order, cooperation, democratic principles, and collective responsibility, whereas Jack increasingly embodies aggression, domination, and the pursuit of personal power. Their rivalry demonstrates how the desire for authority can undermine social unity and weaken the principles necessary for maintaining a stable community. However, the characters cannot be understood through a simple division between good and evil. Their decisions are influenced by fear, social pressure, personal ambition, and changing circumstances. This complexity makes Golding's

representation of human nature psychologically convincing and philosophically significant. Another important finding is that fear plays a fundamental role in the development of moral conflict throughout the novel. The boys' belief in the existence of the beast gradually transforms their understanding of the island and influences their decisions. Instead of responding to their difficulties through rational discussion, they increasingly rely on superstition, emotional reactions, and collective aggression. The beast therefore functions as a powerful symbol of the fears and destructive impulses that exist within human consciousness. Through this symbolic representation, Golding suggests that individuals may fail to recognize the sources of their own behavior when they attribute their problems to external threats. Fear becomes particularly dangerous when it is manipulated by those seeking power and influence. The study also establishes the importance of symbolism in communicating the philosophical ideas of the novel. The conch shell represents democratic authority, communication, and the organization of collective life. Its gradual loss of significance reflects the collapse of the boys' commitment to shared rules and peaceful cooperation. Piggy's glasses symbolize rationality, knowledge, and the practical application of intelligence, while the signal fire represents hope, rescue, and the boys' connection with civilization. The Lord of the Flies, particularly through Simon's encounter with the pig's head, symbolizes the disturbing possibility that evil originates within human beings rather than existing exclusively in the external world. These symbols enrich the narrative and allow Golding to express complex ethical and philosophical ideas through concrete images and events.

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