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USING OF SYMBOLS IN THE NOVEL ‘THE GREAT GATSBY’

“УЛУУ ГЕТСБИ” РОМАНЫНДА СИМВОЛДОРДУН КОЛДОНУЛУШУ

ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЕ СИМВОЛОВ В РОМАНЕ “ВЕЛИКИЙ ГЭТСБИ”

Аннотациясы: Бул макалада «Улуу Гэтсби» романында кайманалардын колдонулушу каралат. Бизге белгилүү болгондой, кайманалар биздин пикир алмашууда абдан маанилүү ролду ойнойт. Бул макалада, мен бул романдын негизги каармандардын кээ бир аныктоого аракет кылышкан.

Негизги сөздөр: каармандар, белгилер, баалуулуктар, чагылдырат.

Аннотация: В этой статье рассматривается использование символов в романе “Великий Гэтсби”. Как мы знаем, символы играют большую роль в нашем общении. В этой статье я попыталась определить некоторые основные символы в этом романе.

Ключевые слова: символы, знаки, ценности, символизировать.

Abstract: This article deals with using of symbols in the novel ‘The Great Gatsby’. As we know symbols play a great role in our communication. So, I have tried to define some the main symbols in this novel.

Key words: symbols, signs, values, symbolize.

It is not a secret that every culture has its own signs and symbols. Symbols play a great role in communication. The most symbolic aspect of culture is language, but symbolism also plays a role in religion, politics, art, and literature as well as in kinship, commerce, and science. Symbolism is basic to the construction and conveyance of gender, ethnic, and national identities. It is the primary way by which humans create meaning, classify knowledge, express emotion, and regulate society.

A symbol is anything that represents another thing by virtue of customary association due to a conceptual connection or perceived resemblance. The English word *symbol* derives etymologically from the Greek *symbolon*, meaning “tally,” “contract,” or “ticket,” which referred originally to a token that was broken in two so that each half could be used to confirm the identity of the other. The word stems from the Greek roots *syn* - (“together”) and *ballein* (“to throw”), and thus has the approximate connotation of “to throw together.”

Symbols are especially useful in *showing* what one cannot *say*; that is, they express ineffable concepts, abstract ideas, and particularly complex emotional significations that are difficult or impossible to fully articulate. Because they powerfully sum up many things at once, symbols are frequently deployed in political and, especially, religious domains. Also symbols are used by many writers in their works. As an example I have chosen the famous American writer and novelist Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald and his novel ‘*The Great Gatsby*’.

Symbolism in ‘The Great Gatsby’.

Symbolism is what makes a story complete. In “The Great Gatsby” Fitzgerald cleverly uses symbolism. Virtually anything in the novel can be taken as a symbol, from the weather, to the colors of clothing the characters wear. There are three main symbols used in The Great Gatsby, they are: The East and West Egg, the green light at the end of Daisy’s dock, and the eyes of Dr.T.J.Eckleburg.

One of the most important [symbols](#) in the

novel is class and social standing. It is like a barrier for almost every character. East and West Eggs act as a symbol of this by its physical makeup. Tom and Daisy live on the East which is far more refined and consists of people with more money and a higher social status. East Egg also represents the “old money.” Nick and Gatsby are on the West, which is for people who don’t have any real standing, even if they have money. The West Egg represents the “new money.” The green light shines from the East Egg to the West Egg luring Gatsby towards what he has always wanted. And Daisy, the woman that Gatsby has always wanted but never gets, lives on East Egg. There is also a barrier of water between the two cities that keeps people like Daisy and Gatsby apart from one another and keeps them from reaching their goals and what they want in life.

The East and West Egg

Symbolism is Going East and West. East Values in ‘The Great Gatsby’, West Egg symbolizes social values. An example was when people came to Tom’s and Myrtle’s apartment. Another example is when people showed up to Gatsby’s parties. Although at Gatsby’s parties they completely trash everything the community comes together to have a good time. Nick goes West Due to the empty feelings of East Egg, Nick decided to move back to the mid-West. He disliked the hollow and self-centered people in East Egg and the fast paced life of New York. West Egg in The Great Gatsby symbolizes the present. Because with “new money” people have to work for their worth, instead of being fortunate and inheriting their money. In The Great Gatsby, East Egg represents the past. Because of their ideals such as Tom’s idea of the Nordic race and white superiority and how do they obtain their money. People from East Egg gain their money from inheritance which is “old money”. Many people want to live in East Egg because of high status both economically and socially. Gatsby’s dream was to be reunited with Daisy and prove to her that he belongs with her, but because how Gatsby is “new money” and Daisy is “old money” their social status clash. East Egg symbolizes the social and moral decay in society.

In the book it seems like people from East Egg (Tom, Daisy, and Jordan) don’t have a care in the world for the lower classes. They act as if they are better than them. Such as when Daisy murders Myrtle. She killed her without even thinking of the consequences that would happen to the people around her. Kayla Mango, Nick Cobb, Calvin Chan, Ana Barrera, Eeyet Phang “At 158th Street the cab stopped at one slice in a long white cake of apartment houses. Throwing a regal homecoming glance around the neighborhood” (Fitzgerald 36). “After Gatsby’s death the East was haunted for me like that, distorted beyond my eyes’ power of correction”(Fitzgerald 185). “I didn’t hear it. I imagined it. A lot of these newly rich people are just big bootleggers, you know”(Fitzgerald 114). “Well, I tried to swing the wheel-” ... “Was Daisy driving?” “Yes”, he said after a moment, “buy of course I’ll say I was” (Fitzgerald 151). “He stretched out his arm toward the dark water in a curious way, and far as I was from him I could have sworn he was trembling. Involuntary I glanced seaward-and distinguished nothing except a single green light”(Fitzgerald 25-26). “Civilization’s going to pieces,” broke out Tom violently. “I’ve gotten to be a terrible pessimist about things” (Fitzgerald 17). “This idea is that we’re Nordics. I am and you are and you are and-” (Fitzgerald 18).

The Green Light

Situated at the end of Daisy’s East Egg dock and barely visible from Gatsby’s West Egg lawn, the green light represents Gatsby’s hopes and dreams for the future. Gatsby associates it with Daisy, and in Chapter 1 he reaches toward it in the darkness as a guiding light to lead him to his goal. Because Gatsby’s quest for Daisy is broadly associated with the American dream, the green light also symbolizes that more generalized ideal. In Chapter 9, Nick compares the green light to how America, rising out of the ocean, must have looked to early settlers of the new nation.

The Eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg

The eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg are a pair of fading, bespectacled eyes painted on an old advertising billboard over the valley of ashes. They may represent God staring down upon and judging American society as a moral wasteland, though the novel never makes this point explicitly. Instead,

throughout the novel, Fitzgerald suggests that symbols only have meaning because characters instill them with meaning. The connection between the eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg and God exists only in George Wilson's grief-stricken mind. This lack of concrete significance contributes to the unsettling nature of the image. Thus, the eyes also come to represent the essential meaninglessness of the world and the arbitrariness of the mental process by which people invest objects with meaning. Nick explores these ideas in Chapter 8, when he imagines Gatsby's final thoughts as a depressed consideration of the emptiness of symbols and dreams.

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