



JACK LONDON IN SEARCH OF THE IDEAL: THE CULT NOVEL "MARTIN EDEN "

Umarkulova Diyora Sanjar qizi

2nd year student

Uzbekistan State World Languages University

+998978802306, umarkulova04@mail.ru

Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: 6th January 2023 Accepted: 6th February 2023 Published: 11th March 2023</p>	<p>The article is devoted to the work of Jack London "Martin Eden". It is established that the tragic discrepancy between reality and the romantic idealization of ideas and personalities becomes the key source of the plot conflict, which leads the protagonist to subsequent disappointment in ideals and loss of life orientations. The main cause of the hero's tragedy is spiritual loneliness, the reckoning that overtakes the one who dares to rise too high, to think too boldly. The article contains such components as a summary, subject matter and description of the main characters of the novel.</p>
<p>Keywords: Jack London, main character, literature, novel, subject matter, philosophy</p>	

INTRODUCTION

Jack London lived a truly superhuman life. For 16 years of his literary activity, he wrote 50 books, countless articles, traveled all over America with lectures on socialism as a perfect form of world order, did not refuse a single person who asked him for help ... With all the passion of his nature, he tried to materialize three his great illusions: marriage "on a reasonable basis" with healthy offspring, socialism and the theory of the superman. "Reasonable marriage" took revenge on him by alienating his daughters; socialism - by setting fire to his "House of the Wolf", and he parted with the third illusion himself. Jack London was a man of arbitrary decisions - a materialist. When life began to leave the body and he no longer felt like a superman, he killed his spirit.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Brief summary. Cheerful young sailor Martin Eden by chance meets the wealthy Morse family. And discovers the world of culture, beauty, books. In love with Ruth Morse, he writes poetry and prose, dreams of becoming a famous writer. He believes in his talent. Hard work earns a living, reads, writes. But everyone advises him to find a normal job. In the end, even Ruth breaks off her engagement to him. And the poet's best friend takes his own life. He, disappointed, suddenly finds glory. Money and honor surround the young writer. And Ruth is ready to become his wife. But in his soul something died. Life is no longer happy. And Martin Eden commits suicide at the moment when the ship carries him to the beautiful islands. He jumps into the water and drowns¹.

Time of creation of the work, main problem, theme and idea. Jack London's famous novel Martin Eden was first published in 1908-1909 in Pacific Mansley. In 1909, the novel was published as a separate book. This work, which tells about the intellectual development of Martin Eden, a talented individualist, turned out to be largely autobiographical. The action of the work begins in two directions, interconnected: the protagonist's love for Ruth and his struggle for a place in society, the struggle for society to finally recognize Martin's writing talent. Jack London in his novel raises the following topics:

- Love Theme ;
- Society Theme ;
- The theme of education ;
- Aspiration Theme ;
- Humanity Theme ;

¹ Valery Viktorovich Andreev. Analysis of the work of Jack London "Martin Eden" // Educational portal "Reference book". —

Date of last update of the article: 04/17/2022. —

URL https://spravochnik.ru/literatura/literatura_ssha/analiz_proizvedeniya_dzheka_londona_martin_iden/ (date of access: 07.12.2022).

- The theme of self-improvement.

The theme of love is one of the main themes of the work. It is this theme that is fundamental in London's novel. "Martin Eden" is a work of a romantic nature, and therefore the essence of the relationship between the characters is either love or hate. And it happens that a person himself cannot fully understand what kind of feeling attracts him to another person - this is evidenced by the position of Ruth. Society is presented to the reader as the absolute opposite of the protagonist of the novel, and this especially clearly reflects his inner world, his essence. Ruth, the heroine of London's work, is the personification of the bourgeois class. And Martin Eden is a bright representative of the working class, but he was able to set himself a goal and strive for it, regardless of what level of the social hierarchy he is at. At the time of the creation of the novel, it was believed that if a person belongs to the bourgeois class, then he is smart, educated and well-read, and this is a distinctive feature of people of this class. However, Jack London in his novel shows that his hero, being lower in terms of wealth, turned out to be much smarter than the representatives of the bourgeois class. If for them knowledge was a matter of course, then Eden strives for it himself².

Another theme touched upon in the novel "Martin Eden" is the theme of aspiration. The protagonist of the novel can be called one of the most purposeful heroes of the work. First of all, striving is overcoming oneself, and this is clearly seen in the example of Martin Eden. In the novel, on the opposition of the protagonist with society, the writer shows another theme - the theme of humanity. Martin always tries to help his sister, friends and loved ones. He even helped a complete stranger, and he, for fun, invited him to visit him so that his relatives would look at a person from a lower society. Jack London in the novel raises such problems as unrequited love, the problem of the empty upper class of society, the problem of access to education for representatives of the working class, the problem of a person's lack of striving for the best, for achieving success. The author also raises the problem of the fact that not every person is ready to help another, which is relevant at all times.

Genre, plot, composition of the novel, its artistic features. "Martin Eden"

refers to the genre of the novel. A pronounced autobiographical element lends credibility to the novel. In the work, the echoes of the life story of the protagonist of the work with the biography of the author himself are obvious. The story takes place in Auckland in the early 20th century. The protagonist of the novel, Martin Eden, is a simple working guy, a native of the lower classes, a sailor, who accidentally met a girl from a wealthy family, Ruth Morse. The guy fell in love with her at first sight, and wanting to become worthy of the girl, he actively takes up self-improvement. Ruth sees in Martin a "savage" and takes patronage over his undertakings. Martin is determined to become a writer, he is sure that he can write much better than the authors of works published in literary magazines. Martin works on his pronunciation and language, reads a lot, begins to write poetry and prose. Over time, he becomes an experienced writer, but the years go by, and success never comes. Ruth realizes that she has fallen in love with Martin, but her parents do not approve of their daughter's choice, but still decide not to openly interfere with their engagement. They try in every possible way to present Eden as unworthy in the eyes of Ruth, they invite accomplished young people to the house.

Eden's book, which one publisher dared to publish, caused a sensation. The long-awaited success comes to Martin, but it does not bring him satisfaction. Martin is constantly invited to banquets, dinners, filled with offers and letters. Ruth herself comes to Martin, now no longer a poor hard worker, but a fashionable and wealthy writer, and offers her hand and heart. However, Martin realizes that his feelings have faded and refuses her. The hero suddenly realizes that he does not need this fame, he does not need big money. He decides to buy a small island in the Pacific Ocean and hide there from the hustle and bustle. The composition of Jack London's novel is distinguished by simplicity and harmony. The center of the composition is the image of the protagonist, not a single event in the novel can do without his participation. The core of the plot is the evolution of the personality of the hero-artist, his driving force. And the centripetal construction of the composition provides an opportunity to achieve maximum concentration of attention on the inner world of the hero and on the work that is constantly going on in his soul.

Characteristics of the main characters. Jack London, working on the novel Martin Eden, included a whole list of heroes to reveal the problems of the work. Here we meet Ruth Morse, whom Martin fell in love with. However, the heroine herself could not reciprocate him. For her, Martin is just a hobby. Maybe for this reason she did not believe that Martin Eden would become a worthy writer. I would like to highlight among the characters of the novel Lizzie Connolly, who loved the main character very much, and was with him from the same class. Moreover, Lizzie loved him as a person, and not his fame or money. The only pity is that due to mental illness, Martin does not stay with Lizzie. The novel also features such characters as Professor Caldwell, who had an invaluable influence on the main character and became the first intellectual on the path of Martin. Here are Russ Brissenden - a friend of the hero, his sisters with their husbands, and Maria Silva, from whom Martin rented an apartment. However, among all the characters, it is Martin Eden who remains the main character. We will talk about him and his image. The main character of the novel is Martin Eden - a representative of the working class, a sailor. He is bold, full of energy and strength, open to new knowledge, self-confident and purposeful. Martin is hardy, able to sleep several hours a day, devoting the rest of the time to work. He always keeps his word, strives to help those in need. Feel free to express your opinion. Martin can stand up for himself and for his loved ones. Love for Ruth changed a lot in him, thanks to this feeling he began to change both externally

² <https://litra.bobrodobro.ru/1759>

and internally. Many of the positive features of the former Martin remained with him, but refinement of manners, accuracy, rejection of bad habits were added to them, speech became more literate and refined. But there is also a downside to Martin's character. He is an individualist, puts personal interests above the public. Ruth Morse is the beloved of the protagonist, Bachelor of Arts. However, at its core, the girl is an ordinary bourgeois, unable to accept life. She is an imaginary representative of the reflective intelligentsia. But Ruth is not a negative character - she has a lot of sincere, kind, bright. She helps Martin, sincerely feels sorry for Lizzy. The image of the heroine is ambiguous, since her environment is largely to blame.

Main character. Martin Eden is the protagonist of the novel. He is a twenty-year-old uneducated young man. He is poor, uncouth, but he has a strong will and habit of work. Martin lost his parents early, so he had to earn a living by the hard work of a sailor. Martin rents a cramped room in his sister's house, but this miserable closet can barely fit a bed, washbasin and one chair. The hero's relationship with his son-in-law does not add up, who reproaches him for drunkenness and dependency. The turning point in Martin's life is visiting family Mr Morse.

A noble bourgeois invites the young man to dinner in gratitude for the service rendered: Martin stood up for the honor of his son. Having been in an intelligent house, where he was first called "Mister", having met his love there - "a pale airy creature", Martin lights up with the desire to overcome the barrier between himself and "people of high culture". London's novel is full of contrasts. It sharply contrasts each other with the world of battlers, morses and higginsbothams (the world of American philistinism, from large prosperous businessmen to miserable townfolk who dream of being like them) and the world of working people, represented primarily by Martin Eden, his friends, Lizzy Connolly, participants in crowd scenes. At the will of the author, the reader finds himself either in Morse's salon, or in the laundry room where the main character works, in his cramped closet, where, choking on the smoke of a kerosene stove, he writes his first poems and stories, reads book after book, mastering the treasures of world culture, and also intoxicating ideas from the books of trendy decadent authors. Martin begins to get acquainted with the philosophy of Spencer and Nietzsche after the beloved of the young writer Ruth sharply criticizes his work. Reading Spencer's writings, Martin discovers that "once he knew nothing ... that he only skimmed the surface of things without any attempt to establish a connection between them." A radical restructuring of the hero's worldview takes place, he acquires the ability to abstract, move away from reality, and leaves his former existence. Martin becomes a famous and highly paid writer³.

But he doesn't feel happy. In the world of Morses and Battlers, feelings turn out to be false (Ruth is only passionate about Martin, their relationship is just a game for her). Martin is experiencing a break with the former environment - the environment of working people capable of sincere feelings (Lizzy Connolly's love for Martin) of Martin is tragic. In this hero, the features of a new person are noticeable, who is replacing people whose souls have been crippled by the world of possessive relationships. The talent of the young writer contains a new perception of the world. Martin was born and raised by the working people, carries his morality, his understanding of reality.

Martin has an amazing sense of purpose and faith in his own strength - he goes to the goal alone, hearing only reproaches, not finding any approval, even the bride does not believe in him. However, he achieves recognition, he proves that he is capable of the impossible. But this strong man has no support left, and he seems to be collapsing under his own weight. Disappointed and in the fashionable philosophical trends at that time, never having been religious, Martin Eden has absolutely nowhere to look for support, renewal⁴.

At the same time, the author himself, having gone through a difficult school of working life, is far from sugary admiration for people from the people who pave the way to art. And this goal can be achieved only with great demands on oneself, at the cost of hard work, opening access to knowledge that others - like young Morses - got easily, as they received them in privileged schools. However, it is hard for Martin to be in the world from which he has achieved recognition, he has nothing to breathe surrounded by philistines and businessmen, he is not attracted by comfort and convenience, in addition, he has lost both his friend and his lover. Martin dooms himself to voluntary death. He makes the last orders: he ensures a comfortable existence for the sisters, and he also does not forget to thank Maria, the landlady of the apartment he rents, for her kind, cordial attitude. Martin merges with the ocean - a powerful natural element that symbolizes the environment from which he came out, where the roots lie that nourished his skill.

CONCLUSION

Plunging into philosophy during self-education, Martin was just afraid that the form would prevail over the idea, over the content, over the very essence. Both hearts in love were held hostage by formalities and restrictions, despite all the romance and sincerity. From the point of view of love relationships, the result, of course, is sad, but if we rely on creativity and the highest aspirations in life, we understand that sometimes even a small powerful push in the form of the most sincere and mutual feelings, even a small spark can ignite the all-consuming flame of self-development, spiritual and physical self-improvement.

³ <https://lit.ukrtvory.ru/tragediya-martina-iden-po-romanu-dzh-londona>

⁴ Осьмухина Ольга Юрьевна, Танасейчук Андрей Борисович Трагедия художника в романе Дж. Лондона "Мартин Иден" // Филологические науки. Вопросы теории и практики. 2018. №11-2 (89). URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/tragediya-hudozhnika-v-romane-dzh-londona-martin-iden> (дата обращения: 18.02.2023).

REFERENCES:

1. Valery Viktorovich Andreev. Analysis of the work of Jack London "Martin Eden" // Educational portal "Reference book". — Date of last update of the article: 04/17/2022. — URLhttps://spravochnick.ru/literatura/literatura_ssha/analiz_proizvedeniya_dzheka_londona_martin_iden/ (date of access: 07.12.2022).
2. <https://artifex.ru/>
3. <https://lit.ukrtvory.ru/tragediya-martina-iden-po-romanu-dzh-londona>
4. <https://litra.bobrodobro.ru/1759>
5. Осьмухина Ольга Юрьевна, Танасейчук Андрей Борисович Трагедия художника в романе Дж. Лондона "Мартин Иден" // Филологические науки. Вопросы теории и практики. 2018. №11-2 (89). URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/tragediya-hudozhnika-v-romane-dzh-londona-martin-iden> (дата обращения: 18.02.2023).