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THE MANIFESTATION OF POSTMODERN TRADITIONS IN THE WORK OF DAVID MITCHELL

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ABSTRACT

Postmodernism is a cultural movement that began to take shape in the second half of the 20th century and is characterized by the rejection of generally accepted ideas and standards. The work of David Mitchell, a British writer and screenwriter, has pronounced postmodern features. In this paper, we will consider what traditions of postmodernism are manifested in his works.

KEYWORDS

Postmodernism, movement, narration, structure, metafiction, intertextuality, chronological order of events.

INTRODUCTION

David Mitchell is one of the most interesting and famous contemporary British writers. His works, including "Cloud Atlas", "Cartography of Lost Places", "Thousand-Year Mountain", "Difficult Practice", caused a wide response in literary criticism and received many awards.

Literary critics note the unusualness and originality of Mitchell's creative approach. He is known for his experimentation with style, perspective, time and

place, and the fusion of genres. Some critics compare him to Borges and Kafka, as his works contain philosophical and metaphysical questions, as well as constantly exploring the nature of reality.

David Mitchell is known for his use of elements of magical realism, which is another hallmark of postmodernism. Magic realism is a technique that combines realistic elements with fantastical or mystical elements, and this was especially pronounced in his

novel Jacob de Zoet's Thousand Autumns. In addition, in this novel, Mitchell used a structure that resembles a nesting doll, where each story is nested in another, which is also a typical sign of postmodernism.

In Mitchell's work there is also a play with genres and subgenres, which is also a characteristic feature of postmodernism. For example, in the novel "Cartography of Celestial Bodies" he combines elements of science fiction, time travel and historical fiction. In Cloud Atlas, he uses six different storytellers, each writing in different genres, from a diary to a scholarly article, allowing him to play with the reader's genre expectations.

In addition, there is a constant theme in Mitchell's work of thinking about time and its non-linear nature, which is another hallmark of postmodernism. He often uses the motif of time loops, when events in different eras intertwine and interact with each other.

Thus, it can be argued that in the work of David Mitchell there are vivid manifestations of postmodernism - playing with genres and styles, multiple intersecting stories, elements of magical realism, reflections on time and its non-linear nature. However, his works also contain deep human ideas and issues such as love, life and death, which make his work unique.

Another example of postmodern technique in Mitchell's work is his use of various genres and styles. In his novels one can find elements of science fiction, historical fiction, mystical and horror literature, as well as elements of parody and satire. For example, in Cloud Atlas, Mitchell uses different genres to tell six different stories that take place in different time periods and cultures.

In addition, Mitchell also frequently plays with the chronological order of events, creating confusion in the plot and forcing the reader to work to uncover the story. This can be seen in the novel Cloud Atlas, where the stories intertwine with each other and create a complex network of connections.

Finally, Mitchell often used multiple voices and perspectives to tell his stories. In Cloud Atlas, he uses six different voices to tell different stories, and each voice has its own unique style and vocabulary.

In general, it can be said that David Mitchell is a prime example of a postmodern writer who uses various techniques to play with genre and cultural expectations, as well as to reveal his ideas and themes. His work is an interesting example of how postmodern techniques can be used in fiction to create rich, multifaceted and meaningful prose.

Let us consider in more detail several examples of the manifestation of postmodernism in the work of David Mitchell.

The first example is the Cloud Atlas novel. In this novel, Mitchell plays with the structure of the narrative, using a technique called "calendar fugato". Each of the six parts of the novel is a separate story that takes place in different times and places, but they are all connected to each other. These stories are closely intertwined with each other, creating a complex mosaic plot. In addition, each of the stories is written in a different style and language, reflecting the linguistic and cultural differences of the characters, highlighting the diversity and complexity of the human experience.

The second example is Aberdeen's Dream Number Nine, which also exhibits postmodern features. In this

novel, Mitchell uses multilingualism and genre mixing to explore ideas about personality transformation and relationships between different cultures. It also plays with the idea of a "book within a book", which tells the story of a protagonist who writes a novel about another character, who in turn writes a book about yet another character. This technique allows Mitchell to explore the idea of how stories and personalities intertwine and interact with each other.

Thus, David Mitchell's work is illustrated with postmodern features, including playing with narrative structure, polysemy and multidimensionality, the use of multilingualism and mixing of genres, as well as the exploration of the idea of multiple personalities and the interrelationships between different cultures.

Another interesting example of postmodern traditions in Mitchell's work is his use of various literary genres and styles within one work. For example, in his novel *To Be or Not to Be*, each main character is presented in a different genre - one character in the book writes an autobiography in the style of the 19th century, another tells his story in the style of a detective, and the third in the style of science fiction. Thus, Mitchell plays with genres and styles, showing their conventionality and the possibility of combining them in one work.

Mitchell also uses the technique of metafiction, which is a key element of postmodernism. He often includes elements in his writings that remind readers that they are reading a novel and plays with genre conventions. For example, in his novel *The Cartography of Lack*, he uses the metaphors of cartography and geography to explore the theme of human memory and identity. In this novel, Mitchell also experiments with structure, using multiple narrators and perspectives, which creates a complex and layered narrative approach.

One example of the postmodern tradition in David Mitchell's work is his use of metatextuality. Metatextuality is when a text refers to itself or to other texts, and also refers to the reader as being included in the text. In Mitchell's novels, this manifests itself, for example, in the fact that the main characters of one novel can be mentioned in another novel by the author. Mitchell also uses intratextual references, word games, semantic games and other literary devices to create a complex and multifaceted structure of his works.

For example, in the novel *Celestial Cartography* (2004), Mitchell uses metatextuality through appeal to the reader and the use of hypertext links. The novel consists of several stories that intertwine with each other, and each story has its own unique structure and language style. At the end of each story, Mitchell leaves a hint to the next story and points to a hypertext link that takes the reader to the next page. This technique creates the feeling that the reader himself participates in the reading process and chooses which story he wants to read next.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that David Mitchell is a prominent representative of postmodern literature. He uses a variety of postmodern techniques such as multiple voices and perspectives, metatextuality, and playing with time and space to create complex, multifaceted and intertextual works. In general, the work of David Mitchell is distinguished by pronounced postmodern features, such as playing with the genre, metafiction and experiments with structure. He uses these elements to explore complex themes such as human memory and identity, and creates novels that

are multi-dimensional and multi-layered to spark interest and debate among readers and critics.

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