

и образы, изложенный в этих текстах, отражает знакомство с экзегетической традицией, известной англосаксам.

Англосаксы до нормандского завоевания стали наследниками ведущих экзегетических традиций: египетской, сирийской, греко- и латиноязычной. Не менее важным являлось и наличие собственной традиции толкования Библии, формирование которой было обусловлено решением прикладных образовательных задач. Богословское образование осуществлялось как на латыни, так и на родном языке англосаксов. Использование последнего предполагало ориентацию на более широкую аудиторию, для просвещения которой могли использоваться не только устные проповеди, но и художественные переложения библейских и агиографических сюжетов в поэтической форме.

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### **THE CONCEPT OF ALLEGORY IN «GULLIVER'S TRAVELS» BY J. SWIFT**

*This report examines of creating allegory in utopia and dystopia based on J. Swift's Gulliver's Travels. which expands from conveying spiritual and transcendental truths to encompass social and political ideals. It's explores the various forms of allegory present in Jonathan Swifts Gullivers Travels, examining historical perspectives on allegory from ancient narratives to modern interpretations. It categorizes allegory into types such as figural, typological, prophetic, and situational, highlighting its evolution from spiritual truths to social and political commentary.*

**Key words:** *Allegory, Utopia, Gullivers Travels and Jonathan Swifts.*

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### **КОНЦЕПЦИЯ АЛЛЕГОРИИ В «ПУТЕШЕСТВИЯХ ГУЛЛИВЕРА» ДЖ. СВИФТА**

*В данной статье рассматривается роль аллегории в романе Дж. Свифта «Путешествия Гулливера». Выделяются различные такие типы аллегории в зависимости от тематического и функционального содержания.*

**Ключевые слова:** *аллегория; утопия; «Путешествия Гулливера»; Джонатан Свифт.*

Allegory is a literary technique that utilizes symbols, characters, and events to represent abstract ideas or concepts. It functions on two levels: the literal level,

where the story unfolds in a straightforward manner, and the symbolic level, where deeper meanings emerge that often critique societal norms or convey moral lessons. Essentially, allegory enables authors to express complex or nuanced ideas in captivating ways that resonate more with readers than simple narratives.

Historically, allegory has been an important means for writers to explore various themes such as ethics, governance, and the human experience. This rich tradition dates back to ancient cultures where it served both educational and entertaining purposes. By using allegorical methods, writers could skillfully lead their audiences toward greater understanding of philosophical or ethical dilemmas without directly confronting them. This strategy not only promotes interpretation but also invites readers to actively engage with the text as they search for deeper meanings.

In literature, allegory appears in many forms, ranging from simple metaphors embedded within a story to intricate narratives that weave together multiple layers of meaning. Notable examples include George Orwell's «Animal Farm,» which cleverly employs the lives of farm animals to symbolize political leaders and movements of its time. Such stories shed light on societal challenges by placing them within familiar contexts.

Additionally, allegorical interpretations allow for varied readings of texts across different eras and cultures. A single work can resonate with diverse audiences due to its layered implications; what one generation views as satire might be perceived by another as a profound commentary on existential truths. This flexibility adds to the timeless appeal of allegorical literature.

The strength of an allegory lies not only in its artistic quality but also in its capacity to go beyond ordinary storytelling; it serves as a mirror reflecting societal values and tensions while simultaneously questioning those very constructs. Authors like Jonathan Swift have expertly employed allegory – especially in works like «Gulliver's Travels» – to critique contemporary society through fantastical narratives that address pressing real-world issues.

In summary, the power of allegory resides not just in its creative merit but also in its ability to ignite discussions about human experiences across different times and places. Through this literary device, readers are invited into meaningful conversations about justice, morality, power dynamics, and the philosophical complexities inherent in life itself.

In «Gulliver's Travels,» Jonathan Swift skillfully incorporates allegory into his examination of ideal societies, presenting a rich tapestry of fictional nations that Gulliver encounters. Each of these societies represents different ideals and social structures, allowing Swift to critique the norms of his time while offering glimpses of potential utopias.

Take Lilliput, for instance; its inhabitants embody triviality and pettiness, caught up in absurd political conflicts that serve as a sharp satire of English politics during Swift's era. Their obsession with protocol and power struggles emphasizes the superficial nature of governance and social relations in England. The miniature size of Lilliput symbolizes how narrow-mindedness can obscure more significant societal issues. However, despite their flaws, the Lilliputians demonstrate a semblance of structured society, where laws, albeit imperfect, exist – suggesting that even within imperfection, there is an essential element of order that could define any ideal community.

In stark contrast, Brobdingnag showcases giants who possess a more ethical approach to governance. The Brobdingnags value virtue over mere power and express

skepticism towards Gulliver's accounts of European politics. Their society places a high premium on honesty and integrity while critically assessing European excesses. This emphasis on morality prompts thought-provoking inquiries about the nature of an ideal state: should it be rooted in rationality or deeply held ethical principles? Through this allegorical comparison, Swift appears to advocate for the latter. [2, p. 362]

Moreover, the realm of the Houyhbnms adds another dimension of idealism – a rational society led by intelligent horses endowed with reason and virtue. The Houyhbnms symbolize a quest for a philosophical utopia where reason guides actions and relationships flourish on mutual respect instead of exploitation. Their disdain for Yahoos – creatures resembling humans yet representing vice – highlights a crucial distinction between rational thought and the base instincts inherent in humanity itself.

These varied societies not only reflect Swift's views on governance but also his exploration of the complex moral landscape of humanity. Through Gulliver's experiences, he critiques the deficiencies of contemporary societies while simultaneously highlighting ideals worth pursuing – even if they remain elusive or imperfectly achieved.

Swift's narrative acts as both a reflection of human nature and an invitation to consider what an ideal society might resemble amid the multitude of absurdities found within real political arenas. His allegorical structure encourages readers to reflect on their values while illuminating the possibilities that emerge when reason triumphs over folly.

In «Gulliver's Travels,» Jonathan Swift uses dystopian motifs to critique 18<sup>th</sup>-century English society. Through Lemuel Gulliver's encounters with various realms, Swift exposes the absurdities and moral failings of his time. Each civilization reflects human vices, illustrating a world plagued by greed, corruption, and a lack of intellectual rigor.

In Lilliput, Swift satirizes political maneuvering through its small yet pompous citizens engaged in ludicrous power struggles. The farcical competition for office, exemplified by Rope Dancers performing stunts, highlights how trivial skills overshadow true qualifications, mirroring the arbitrary nature of political appointments in England. This mockery reveals that leaders often lack genuine competence or integrity.

Gulliver's journey to Brobdingnag intensifies this critique, as the giants disdainfully react to English customs. The king's characterization of the English as «odious vermin» underscores the moral decay Swift perceived. [3] The contrast between Gulliver's admiration for his nation and the king's scorn showcases humanity's self-delusion about its virtues, critiquing both the British elite and broader human failings. Laputa introduces another dystopian aspect, where rational thought is pursued without practical application. Inhabitants neglect basic human needs, symbolizing the disconnect of an intellectual elite from real-world challenges. This reliance on impractical knowledge illustrates how societal structures can become arrogant yet ineffective. Swift's depiction of Luggnagg, with its immortal Struldbrugs, presents a grim irony: eternal life leads to endless suffering without relief. This paradox reflects Swift's views on mortality, suggesting that a life devoid of meaning can result in greater anguish than death.

As Gulliver navigates these bleak societies, he grows disillusioned with humanity, prompting readers to scrutinize their own governance, values, and definitions of progress. Through this allegorical voyage filled with grotesque imagery, Swift emphasizes that while societies may strive for utopia, they often fall short due to inherent human flaws. See references

Swift's portrayal of different societies invites an exploration of utopian dreams and dystopian realities, highlighting the clash between humanity's pursuit of perfection and its inherent flaws. Through imaginative lands like Lilliput and Houyhnhnms, he encourages reflection on contradictions within governance and social frameworks. The trivial disputes among the Lilliputians serve as an exaggerated mirror of political turmoil, prompting readers to confront absurdities in contemporary political landscapes.

Additionally, allegorical characters such as the Struldbruggs critique humanity's desire for immortality and eternal youth. This narrative illustrates how these aspirations can lead to despair rather than fulfillment, shedding light on society's often unrealistic expectations regarding aging.

Swift also examines moral values and societal norms through Gulliver's encounters, probing concepts of justice, power dynamics, and ethical governance. The contrasting societies he visits, each an exaggerated representation of prevailing ideologies, facilitate critical discussions about governance models that remain pertinent today. Thus, these allegorical elements elevate «Gulliver's Travels» beyond mere entertainment, transforming it into a platform for philosophical discourse on ethics in leadership.

Ultimately, literature's power lies in its ability to reflect human experiences and highlight societal shortcomings through allegory. Swift's use of irony enhances his critiques and engages readers emotionally, allowing for diverse interpretations shaped by individual perspectives.

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#### **FORMS AND MEANINGS OF SILENCE IN BECKETT'S PLAYS OF THE 1950s–1960s**

*Silence as a particular aesthetic tool characteristic of Samuel Beckett's plays (and the theatre of the absurd in general) has been discussed by scholars and critics since it was first mentioned by M. Esslin in 1961. The paper is focused on a particular aspect of this tool's functioning within the plays: comparing the «language» and context of silence in Waiting for Godot, Endgame and Happy Days, it analyzes common and different features of Beckett's image of silence.*

**Key words:** S. Beckett; drama; silence; functions; uncertainty; confusion; absurdity.

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#### **ФОРМЫ И ФУНКЦИИ МОЛЧАНИЯ В ПЬЕСАХ С. БЕККЕТА 1950–1960-х годов**

*Молчание как особый эстетический прием, характерный для пьес Сэмюэля Беккета (и театра абсурда в целом), обсуждается исследователями и критиками с момента его первого*