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THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALITY IN LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY'S FEMALE CHARACTERS

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Abstract. *This article studies the development of personality in Lucy Maud Montgomery's female characters. The main focus is placed on Anne Shirley from Anne of Green Gables, Emily Byrd Starr from Emily of New Moon, and Valancy Stirling from The Blue Castle. The article analyzes how personality is formed through family pressure, loneliness, imagination, education, self-expression, and personal choice. Close reading, textual analysis, and a comparative method are used in the research. Special attention is given to short extracts that show change in voice, behavior, inner strength, and self-understanding. The study shows that Montgomery's female characters do not stay fixed. Growth is presented as a gradual process. Imagination gives emotional support, hardship produces inner strength, and choice leads to a more stable sense of self. The results show that Montgomery presents female development not as a sudden transformation, but as a human process connected with daily life, feeling, and moral growth.*

Keywords: *Lucy Maud Montgomery, female characters, personality development, Anne Shirley, Emily Byrd Starr, Valancy Stirling, character analysis, self-discovery.*

РАЗВИТИЕ ЛИЧНОСТИ В ЖЕНСКИХ ОБРАЗАХ ЛЮСИ МОД МОНТГОМЕРИ

Аннотация. *В данной статье исследуется развитие личности женских персонажей в произведениях Люси Мод Монтгомери. Основное внимание уделяется образам Энн Ширли из романа "Anne of Green Gables", Эмили Бёрд Старр из "Emily of New Moon" и Вэланси Стирлинг из "The Blue Castle". В статье анализируется, как личность формируется под влиянием семейного давления, одиночества, воображения, образования, самовыражения и личного выбора. В исследовании используются*

методы близкого чтения, текстуального анализа и сравнительного подхода. Особое внимание уделяется коротким фрагментам, которые показывают изменения в голосе, поведении, внутренней силе и самопонимании героинь. Исследование показывает, что женские персонажи Монтомери не остаются неизменными. Их развитие представлено как постепенный процесс. Воображение дает эмоциональную поддержку, трудности формируют внутреннюю силу, а выбор приводит к более устойчивому ощущению собственного "я". Результаты показывают, что Монтомери представляет развитие женской личности не как внезапное превращение, а как человеческий процесс, связанный с повседневной жизнью, чувствами и нравственным ростом.

Ключевые слова: Люси Мод Монтомери, женские персонажи, развитие личности, Энн Ширли, Эмили Бёрд Старр, Вэланси Стирлинг, анализ персонажа, самопознание.

LYUSI MOD MONTGOMERINING AYOL OBRAZLARIDA SHAXS RIVOJI

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada Lucy Maud Montgomery asarlaridagi ayol qahramonlar shaxsiyatining rivojlanishi o'rganiladi. Asosiy e'tibor "Anne of Green Gables" asaridagi Anne Shirley, "Emily of New Moon" asaridagi Emily Byrd Starr va "The Blue Castle" asaridagi Valancy Stirling obrazlariga qaratiladi. Maqolada shaxsiyatning oilaviy bosim, yolg'izlik, tasavvur, ta'lim, o'zini ifoda etish va shaxsiy tanlov orqali qanday shakllanishi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda yaqin o'qish, matniy tahlil va qiyosiy metodlardan foydalaniladi. Ovoz, xulq-atvor, ichki kuch va o'zini anglashdagi o'zgarishni ko'rsatuvchi qisqa parchalarga alohida e'tibor beriladi. Tadqiqot natijalari Montgomeryning ayol qahramonlari o'zgarish holatda qolmasligini ko'rsatadi. Rivojlanish asta-sekin kechadigan jarayon sifatida tasvirlanadi. Tasavvur hissiy tayanch beradi, qiyinchilik ichki kuchni shakllantiradi, tanlov esa shaxsning o'zligini yanada barqaror anglashga olib keladi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, Montgomery ayol shaxsining rivojlanishini keskin o'zgarish sifatida emas, balki kundalik hayot, his-tuyg'u va axloqiy kamolot bilan bog'liq insoniy jarayon sifatida tasvirlaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: Lucy Maud Montgomery, ayol qahramonlar, shaxsiyat rivojlanishi, Anne Shirley, Emily Byrd Starr, Valancy Stirling, obraz tahlili, o'zini anglash.

INTRODUCTION.

Lucy Maud Montgomery is widely known for creating memorable female characters. These characters are often young, sensitive, imaginative, and deeply connected with the world around them. At the same time, they are not simple dreamers. Difficult family situations, social judgment, and inner struggle shape their growth. For this reason, Montgomery's fiction gives rich material for the study of personality development.

This article focuses on the way personality is formed in three female characters: Anne Shirley, Emily Byrd Starr, and Valancy Stirling. These characters belong to different books

and different life stages, but a clear connection can be seen among them. Each character begins in a state of emotional lack. Anne searches for home and acceptance. Emily searches for identity after loss. Valancy searches for freedom after years of silence and fear. The article asks how imagination, suffering, environment, and personal decision help these women become stronger and more self-aware. The topic is important because Montgomery's female characters are still read not only as literary figures, but also as models of emotional growth. A simple reading may see only charm, humor, and domestic detail. A closer reading shows a deeper pattern: personality is developed through conflict between the inner self and outer control. This article aims to show that Montgomery's heroines become complete personalities through experience, resistance, and self-expression.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY.

Recent research has paid serious attention to identity, growth, and female experience in Montgomery's works. Caroline E. Jones studies Emily of New Moon through nostalgia, family connection, and personal identity. This study is helpful because it explains that Emily's development is tied to memory, place, and the search for self, not only to external events. Such an approach supports the present article, especially in the discussion of Emily as a girl whose personality grows through loss and writing practice [5, 46].

Another useful line of research can be found in work on Anne Shirley's development. Fatimah Salsabila Az-Zahra and Nur Saktiningrum examine Anne's character development and the causes behind it. Their research is important for this article because it treats Anne's change as a process shaped by environment, education, and social relations. This helps the present research explain that Anne's personality is not static, but formed step by step through contact with Green Gables, school, and friendship [1, 124]. Research on women's empowerment in "Anne of Green Gables" also adds a useful modern view. Eva Catur Herawati and Rini Susanti Wulandari discuss education, resilience, and gender roles in the novel [4, 29]. Their results are helpful because they show that Anne's growth can be read not only as private emotional change, but also as a movement toward confidence and agency. Studies on other Montgomery heroines are also important. Jessica Taylor, in a recent article on Jane of Lantern Hill, explains how home, relationships, and daily work shape identity. This point is useful because it proves that Montgomery often connects personality with place and domestic experience. In the same way, Valancy Stirling's growth in *The Blue Castle* can be understood through changed space, changed routine, and changed self-perception [10, 28]. Taken together, these studies show that modern criticism increasingly reads Montgomery's female characters as complex personalities. However, fewer short student-oriented studies compare several heroines in one frame. For that reason, the present article brings Anne, Emily, and Valancy together and examines how different forms of struggle produce different but related models of female development.

This research uses close reading as the main method. Short extracts from *Anne of Green Gables*, *Emily of New Moon*, and *The Blue Castle* are selected because they clearly show emotional change, self-expression, or personal decision. Each extract is studied in relation to

the character's situation, language, and later development. The research also uses textual analysis. Words connected with imagination, fear, belonging, ambition, and independence are examined in a simple way. Attention is given to how a character speaks, what kind of pressure surrounds the character, and how the meaning of that speech changes during the story. A comparative method is also used. Anne, Emily, and Valancy are compared in order to identify common patterns and important differences. Through comparison, it becomes easier to see that Montgomery presents personality as a process, but not the same process for every heroine. Anne grows through love and discipline, Emily grows through writing and memory, and Valancy grows through rebellion and freedom.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Extract from Anne of Green Gables: *"There was more scope for imagination"* [6,120]. This early statement presents Anne as a child whose inner world is already strong. Imagination is not shown here as childish decoration only. It is shown as a survival tool. Anne comes from a hard life, so imagination helps create emotional space and hope. This extract is important because Anne's first strong personal feature is named through language. Later experience at Green Gables does not remove imagination. Instead, imagination is slowly guided by care, education, and responsibility. Personality is formed here through a meeting of natural sensitivity and a new supportive environment. The line also suggests that Anne actively reshapes reality. That habit later becomes a source of strength, friendship, and moral growth.

"Ann Shirley must learn to control her temper" [6, 97]. This line marks a different stage in Anne's growth. Anne is imaginative, but Anne is also proud, emotional, and quick to react. The sentence points to a weakness that must be corrected. Personality development in Montgomery is not idealized. Positive qualities alone do not create maturity. Anne becomes stronger when feeling is balanced by self-control. The novel shows that education and social life do not silence Anne's spirit. They refine it. Because of this, Anne's personality becomes richer rather than smaller. A lively child slowly becomes a thoughtful young woman, and this change gives depth to her character.

"I want to be famous and rich." [7, 42]. Emily's answer may sound simple at first, but it reveals ambition and self-awareness. Emily does not hide desire. This is important because many girls in traditional settings are expected to be modest and silent. Emily openly names a future for herself. This extract shows that personality in Emily is formed through writing and inward discipline. Loss, memory, and artistic desire work together. Emily's growth is different from Anne's. Anne grows through social belonging. Emily grows through a stronger inner vocation. The desire to write becomes a central force in the making of self. Montgomery presents ambition here not as vanity alone, but as energy that moves the character toward identity.

"...she ... was not afraid of death" [8, 46]. This moment changes Valancy's whole life. Earlier, fear controls daily behavior. After the medical shock, fear loses its power. The sentence is simple, but its effect is great. Once death is no longer the greatest fear, social

judgment also becomes weaker. This extract helps explain that Valancy’s personality is formed late, but formed powerfully. Suppressed identity begins to speak. Montgomery shows that personality can develop even after years of silence. Growth is not limited to childhood. Adult female selfhood also matters in Montgomery’s fiction. The scene also makes clear that change begins inside the mind before it becomes visible in action.

“I am not going to any doctor.”[8, 76]. This sentence is direct and firm. Valancy, who once obeyed family pressure, now speaks with authority. The line marks a visible shift from passive existence to personal decision. This extract shows the connection between speech and identity. When Valancy begins to speak differently, Valancy begins to live differently. Personality is no longer hidden. It enters action. In this way, Montgomery presents female development as both inward change and outward resistance. The new voice is short, clear, and strong. Such language proves that character development can be heard as well as seen.

The three books named in this section are “Anne of Green Gables”, “Emily of New Moon” and “The Blue Castle”. A comparison of the extracts shows both similarity and difference. Anne, Emily, and Valancy all move from weakness to greater strength, but the direction is not the same. Anne learns balance, Emily builds artistic identity, and Valancy claims adult freedom. This comparison is useful because it shows Montgomery’s range. Female personality is not presented in one fixed model. One heroine may grow through affection and discipline, another through creative work, and another through resistance to control. Yet all three characters show that personality develops when an inner voice finds a form strong enough to face the world.

CONCLUSION.

The analysis shows that Lucy Maud Montgomery’s female characters develop through a living process that joins feeling, struggle, and self-expression. Anne Shirley grows from an imaginative orphan into a more balanced and responsible young woman. Emily Byrd Starr forms personality through writing, memory, and artistic ambition. Valancy Stirling breaks silence and develops a new self through courage and decision.

Although these characters are different in age and situation, the same larger pattern is present in all three works. Personality is not given in finished form. It is built through contact with pain, place, language, and choice. Montgomery gives special importance to the inner life of women and girls, but that inner life is always tested by the outer world. For this reason, the novels remain important for the study of female growth in literature.

In sum, Montgomery’s female characters do not only charm readers. They show how a self can be formed slowly, honestly, and with dignity. This result makes Montgomery’s fiction valuable for literary study and for student research on character development.

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