

**THE ARTISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IMAGES OF FATHER AND CHILD
IN CORMAC MCCARTHY'S "THE ROAD"***Begmatova Sokhiba Mustafoyevna**Uzbekistan State World Languages University**Department of Practical Sciences of English Language No. 2**Senior Lecturer (PhD)**E-mail: begmatovasokhiba@gmail.com**+998901860184*

Abstract: This article analyzes American writer Cormac McCarthy's novel "The Road", highlighting the images of father and son and their spiritual and artistic relationship. In the work, values such as fatherhood, love, morality, and humanity are given new philosophical meaning against the backdrop of the final scene of humanity's destruction. The study reveals the author's moral, existential, and religious ideas underlying the images of father and son.

Keywords: Cormac McCarthy, novel "The Road", father and son, existentialism, morality, hope, dystopia.

Cormac McCarthy's novel "The Road" (2006) is one of the works in modern literature that invites us to reconsider the essence of man and humanity. The work describes the experiences of a father and son trying to survive in a world where civilization has collapsed, their spiritual world and love for each other during their journey. Through these two images, McCarthy puts forward the philosophical idea that "even if humanity disappears, humanity must live on". First of all, the idea that "even if humanity disappears, humanity must live on" is an idea based primarily on the principles of humanity (humanism, humanitarian values) and universality. That is, humanity is understood not as a separate nation, race or group, but as the general condition of mankind.

Humanity, on the other hand, refers to moral standards such as goodness, love, justice, conscience, and seeing others as fellow human beings rather than as aliens. It is said that if humanity "disappears", that is, if this group, society, historical development, or culture deviates from its path, even if it is destroyed, human values should be preserved. This idea is also often found in literature. For example, against the backdrop of apocalyptic, post-apocalyptic, disasters, wars, and catastrophes, motives such as "responsibility to the people and society" and "protection of human values" appear through human heroes.

The events of the novel take place in a post-apocalyptic world. The sun has gone out, nature has died, and society has fallen apart. In such conditions, the father's only goal is to keep his son alive and raise him as a "bearer of goodness". "The road" in the work has a symbolic meaning. This is not just a geographical road, but a moral and spiritual road, humanity's final journey towards conscience. As the father and son travel this road, they struggle not only with the external environment, but also with internal evil.

In the novel, the image of the father is embodied as a symbol of the struggle for life, love and selflessness. He seeks to raise his son in the spirit of human values in a destroyed

world, full of spiritual and physical suffering¹. The main essence of the image of the father is to express the idea of preserving humanity even at a time when humanity is being destroyed. He tries to instill in his son such moral standards as distinguishing good from evil, preserving conscience and humanity, and not losing hope, amidst difficult trials, hunger and dangers. Thus, in the image of the father, the author illuminates the idea of continuing humanity through generations, that is, preserving the spiritual heritage, through artistic means.

The father is interpreted not only as a physical protector, but also as a moral and spiritual guide, a spiritual teacher. His love for his son is embodied in religious and symbolic meaning, and this image combines fatherhood with salvation, sacrifice and self-sacrifice. The father is depicted as finding his salvation through his child, thus striving to understand the divine essence of man. This interpretation elevates the image of the father not just as a biological or social role, but as an artistic embodiment of the ideal of humanity with spiritual and metaphysical significance.

The image of the child embodies the last hope of humanity. Unlike his father, he does not yet fully understand the evil of this world, but in his heart there is still love, compassion and purity². The child is a symbol of the future and purity, through which the author proves that humanity has not yet completely disappeared. The child's question "Are we still good people?" is the main moral criterion in the work. Through this question, McCarthy forces the reader to think about the essence of man.

McCarthy illuminates these two characters through dialogues that are very few in number but deeply philosophical. The relationship between them: expressed more through silence and movement than words, is artistically written in a minimalist style, which leaves the reader with a deeper emotional impact.

In the novel, the father passes the "fire" to the son, which in turn is a symbol of life and humanity. Through this, the writer artistically expresses the ideas of "continuity of generations" and "moral heritage". The writer's language is simple, but its meaning is deeply significant. With the help of minimal dialogues, short images and metaphorical images, he artistically combines the terrible atmosphere, the test of the human spirit and the love between father and son. In the work, colors, sounds, even silence itself become artistic means. For example, "silence in the gray sky" is the most powerful expression of the landscape of the dead world.

In literary criticism, heroes have the task of making a moral choice. In the context of this idea, the choice is: "to surrender to extinction or to protect humanity?". Heroes bring this philosophical idea to life by confronting the situation, choosing the path of humanity, expressing a great meaning with small actions.

The time, place, and state of society in which the work was created are also important. The idea "Even if humanity disappears..." can especially arise in response to events of crisis, war, ecological disaster, totalitarianism, or cultural decay³. Therefore, as a literary critic, it is important to analyze the author's context - in what socio-historical environment the work was written, what problems it confronts.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that Cormac McCarthy's novel "The Road" is a deeply philosophical work that, along with its dystopian content, expresses the moral and spiritual test of humanity. Through the images of father and son, the author artistically reflects the spiritual experiences of man, the sacredness of paternal love, and the inexhaustibility of the sense of

¹ Bloom, Harold (ed.). Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. Infobase Publishing, 2009.-P. 11.

² Walters, Wendy. *Humanism and Morality in McCarthy's The Road*. Modern Fiction Studies, 2008.

³ Arnold, Edwin T. & Dianne C. Luce (eds.). *Perspectives on Cormac McCarthy*. University Press of Mississippi, 1999.-P.13.

humanity. Against the backdrop of a world facing destruction, the work puts forward the idea of the destruction of human values, and at the same time, the preservation of father-child love as the last sacred symbol. This work encourages the reader to think deeply about the essence of humanity, moral choice, and spiritual stability.

References

1. McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.
2. Arnold, Edwin T. & Dianne C. Luce (eds.). *Perspectives on Cormac McCarthy*. University Press of Mississippi, 1999.
3. Walters, Wendy. *Humanism and Morality in McCarthy's The Road*. Modern Fiction Studies, 2008.
4. Bloom, Harold (ed.). *Cormac McCarthy's The Road*. Infobase Publishing, 2009.
5. Parajape, M. *Post-apocalyptic Fatherhood: Cormac McCarthy and the Ethics of Care*. Literature Compass, 2015.