



THE CONCEPT OF THE MODERN PERSON AND THE MODEL OF ARTISTIC THOUGHT IN THE WORK OF ZADIE SMITH

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Abstract. This thesis examines the concept of the modern person and the model of artistic thought in the works of contemporary British novelist Zadie Smith. Through an analysis of *White Teeth*, *On Beauty*, *NW*, and *Swing Time*, the study explores how Smith represents multicultural identity, consciousness, globalization, and postmodern subjectivity. The thesis argues that Smith creates a new artistic model of contemporary humanity characterized by hybridity, plurality, and continuous.

Key words: Zadie Smith, modern person, artistic thought, consciousness, multiculturalism, identity, postmodernism, globalization, elf-transformation.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu tezis zamonaviy britaniyalik yozuvchi Zadi Smitning asarlarida zamonaviy inson tushunchasi va badiiy tafakkur modelini o'rganadi. Tadqiqotda "White teeth", "On beauty", "NW" va "Swing Time" asarlarini tahlil qilish orqali Smitning ko'p madaniyatli o'ziga xoslik, ong, globalizatsiya va postmodern subyektivlikni qanday ifodalashi o'rganiladi. Tezisdan Smitning gibridlik, plyuralizm va uzluksiz o'zini o'zi o'zgartirish bilan tavsiflangan zamonaviy insoniyatning yangi badiiy modelini yaratishi ta'kidlangan.



Kalit so'zlar: Zadi Smit, zamonaviy inson, badiiy tafakkur, ong, multikulturalizm, o'ziga xoslik, postmodernizm, globallashuv.

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается современная концепция и модель художественного мышления в творчестве современной британской писательницы Зади Смит. Исследование анализирует, как Смит выражает мультикультурную идентичность, сознание, глобализацию и постмодернистскую субъективность на примере её произведений “White teeth”, “On beauty”, “NW” и “Swing Time”. В статье подчёркивается, что Смит создаёт новую художественную модель современного человечества, характеризующуюся гибридностью, плюрализмом и непрерывной самотрансформацией.

Ключевые слова: Зади Смит, современная личность, художественная мысль, сознание, мультикультурализм, идентичность, постмодернизм, глобализация.

Introduction

The rapid social, cultural, and technological transformations of the twenty-first century have significantly influenced literary representations of human consciousness. Contemporary writers increasingly focus on the fragmentation of identity and the complexities of multicultural existence. Among them, Zadie Smith occupies a prominent position due to her profound exploration of race, culture, migration, and belonging. Her fiction reflects the realities of contemporary multicultural societies and presents individuals whose identities are constantly negotiated within diverse social and cultural contexts [6: 4–10]. Theoretical discussions concerning identity in contemporary society emphasize that identity should not be understood as fixed or stable but rather as a dynamic process shaped



by historical and cultural conditions [5: 55–57; 6: 1–5]. Smith's novels provide literary representations of these theoretical assumptions.

The Modern Person as a Multicultural Subject

One of the most distinctive features of Smith's artistic vision is her portrayal of the modern individual as a multicultural subject. In *White Teeth*, the experiences of the Jones and Iqbal families reveal how migration and cultural diversity influence personal identity and social belonging [1: 151–170]. The novel demonstrates that second-generation immigrants often experience tensions between inherited traditions and contemporary British culture. The character Irie Jones embodies the struggle for self-definition within a multicultural environment. Her search for identity illustrates the challenges faced by individuals who belong simultaneously to different cultural traditions [1: 265–275]. Smith thereby challenges essentialist understandings of ethnicity and nationality, suggesting that identity is continuously reconstructed through interaction with multiple cultural influences. This representation corresponds with Stuart Hall's concept of cultural identity as an ongoing process of becoming rather than a completed state of being [6: 2–4]. The modern person in Smith's fiction emerges as a product of cultural interaction, social mobility, and historical transformation.

Cultural Hybridity and Contemporary Consciousness

The concept of cultural hybridity occupies a central place in Smith's works. Homi Bhabha argues that cultural interaction produces a "Third Space" where new identities emerge beyond traditional binary oppositions [5: 36–39]. Smith's characters frequently inhabit such spaces, negotiating between different cultural affiliations. In *White Teeth*, Samad Iqbal's family exemplifies the tensions between cultural preservation and assimilation. His children develop identities that combine



elements of both Bangladeshi and British cultures, illustrating the hybrid nature of contemporary subjectivity [1: 193–210]. Similarly, *Swing Time* explores how globalization and transnational mobility reshape personal identity. The unnamed narrator moves across different geographical and cultural environments, experiencing multiple forms of belonging and alienation [4: 115–130]. Through these experiences, Smith demonstrates that modern consciousness is characterized by fluidity and multiplicity rather than stability and coherence.

Artistic Thought and Narrative Representation

The model of artistic thought in Smith's fiction is closely connected with innovative narrative strategies. Her novels frequently employ multiple perspectives, fragmented structures, and nonlinear storytelling techniques that reflect the complexity of contemporary consciousness. In *NW*, Smith experiments with narrative form to portray the psychological experiences of urban individuals living in multicultural London [3: 75–98]. The fragmented structure of the novel mirrors the fragmented realities of its characters, emphasizing the difficulties of constructing coherent identities in a rapidly changing social environment. Such narrative experimentation reflects broader postmodern literary tendencies that reject singular truths and stable perspectives. Smith's artistic method encourages readers to recognize the plurality of human experience and the limitations of essentialist worldviews [7: 45–52].

Globalization and the Transformation of Human Identity

Globalization constitutes another important dimension of Smith's artistic thought. Contemporary individuals increasingly live within interconnected social, economic, and cultural networks that transcend national boundaries. In *On Beauty*, Smith explores cultural exchange and ideological conflicts within academic and



multicultural communities [2: 120–145]. The novel illustrates how global cultural processes influence personal relationships, values, and self-perceptions.

Likewise, *Swing Time* portrays characters whose lives are shaped by global mobility and transnational connections [4: 201–218]. Smith presents globalization as both an opportunity for intercultural dialogue and a source of uncertainty. As a result, identity becomes increasingly flexible and situational.

Conclusion

Zadie Smith's fiction offers a sophisticated representation of the modern person and the contemporary model of artistic thought. Through multicultural characters, hybrid identities, and innovative narrative techniques, Smith portrays consciousness as a dynamic and evolving phenomenon. Her works demonstrate that identity is not a fixed category but a process continuously shaped by cultural interaction, globalization, and historical change. The artistic model developed by Smith reflects the complexities of twenty-first-century existence and contributes significantly to contemporary discussions concerning multiculturalism, postcolonial identity, and human consciousness. Consequently, her novels remain important literary texts for understanding the cultural realities of the modern world.

References

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