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The usage of the plot and characterization in Bulgakov’s “The Master and Margarita” and Murakami’s “Kafka on the Shore”

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Article type: Research Article</p> <p>Article history: Received : 08 October 2022 Received in revised form: 01 November 2022 Accepted: 08 November 2022 Published online: January 2024</p> <p>Keywords: The Master and Margarita, Kafka on the Shore, narration, plot, characterization.</p>	<p>In contemporary literature, the examination of character and characterization has emerged as a crucial determinant in the craft of storytelling. The present study posits that, in the realm of fictional literature, authors often convey their insight, thoughts, emotions, and beliefs through the development of plot, with characters serving as an effective medium for such manifestations. The significance of characterization has thus gained prominence in fiction literature, as it allows readers to gain an understanding of the author's mindset, emotions, and worldview through their engagement with fictional characters.</p> <p>This research undertakes a comparative analysis of two renowned novels, namely "The Master and Margarita" by Mikhail Afanasyevich Bulgakov and "Kafka on the Shore" by Haruki Murakami, focusing on the narrative structure and characterization. Firstly, the narrative structures of both novels are examined, followed by a meticulous exploration and comparison of the primary characters within these literary works. Through this comprehensive analysis, the research aims to extract and elucidate the underlying meanings inherent in these narratives.</p> <p>Bulgakov, an esteemed Russian literary figure, employed the genre of magical realism to craft a novel that exhibits a contemporary form, composition, and narration. Similarly, Murakami, a globally recognized writer, utilized surrealism as a stylistic approach in his renowned work "Kafka on the Shore". The central inquiry of this study revolves around the extent to which these two literary masterpieces, namely "The Master and Margarita" by Bulgakov and "Kafka on the Shore" by Murakami, adhere to Propp's narrative theory. Furthermore, the authors of this scholarly article have extensively consulted research resources dedicated to these literary works. Employing an analytical-descriptive approach, the researchers have employed documentary analysis, library research, and note-taking techniques to examine the subject matter. Upon thorough analysis according to Propp's morphology theory, it becomes evident that both novels align with the proposed framework.</p> <p>The authors of the article have reached the conclusion that both works adhere to Propp's morphological theory and share a common superstructure. Additionally, the authors employ dynamic and static characters, as well as extraterrestrial beings and humans with earthly characteristics, to depict the societal context of their respective eras and convey the fate of human beings.</p> <p>The selection of Bulgakov and Murakami's novels for the current research is motivated by their status as highly significant and renowned pieces by these authors. Furthermore, the captivating and metaphysically perplexing atmospheres featured in both narratives contribute to their suitability for study. Another factor contributing to the selection is the similarity in</p>



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narrative structure, as both novels comprise separate stories that converge towards the conclusion.

"The Master and Margarita" is widely regarded as one of the most remarkable literary works globally. It stands out particularly during a period when Soviet literature was heavily subjected to censorship and restricted to the realm of Soviet Russian figures. Bulgakov's novel serves as a critique of the Soviet regime, shedding light on the Soviet situation following the relatively stable initial decades of the revolution. The novel exemplifies this critical perspective in a transparent manner.

Murakami is recognized as a prominent Japanese postmodern writer. His narratives often exhibit elements of nihilism and surrealism, consistently exploring themes of loneliness and alienation. When crafting his novels, Murakami actively cultivates a surreal and symbolic ambiance, opting to transcend mundane reality by delving into his own subconscious. This approach enables him to fashion characters and events that resonate with readers while still drawing from the fabric of society.

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