

## The Concept of Paradox and Reality in the Novel 'Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man'

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**Abstract:** The main theme of James Joyce's creativity, epistemologically, it reveals the literary and artistic values of Irish culture, within its entirety. In this paper, it will be discussed and be examined the views on the flow of consciousness paradoxes and extra individual mismatches in the novel of "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man". The goal that Joyce can reach as a "harmony and paradox" in the novel, is not just a mental or psychological factor, along with, he wanted to show a unique artistic and consciousness concept technique that existed in the human mind precisely at this moment. Sometimes, the concepts that people want to know correctly in their minds, it may result in the opposite. And in hence, these identifications can be defined in different types of as paradoxically, according to the power and claims of human logic. According to the writer, human beings become real and independent, while they discover themselves. Aesthetic beauty, art, love, and such sensitive emotions can only be seen as part of one's own self. Based on all these, the author considers the creative vision of Stefan Dedalus as a real prototype in his novel of "Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man". And also, the author, however, manages to reveal as the main paradox the mechanism of modern human life in the XIX th century Irish literary culture.

**Keywords:** Artistic, technical, paradoxes, prototype, aesthetics.

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## 'Sanatçının Bir Genç Adam Olarak Portresi' Romanında Paradoks ve Gerçeklik Kavramı

**Öz:** James Joyce yaratıcılığının esas ana konusu epidemiyoloji olarak İrlanda kültürünü, onun edebi ve sanatsal değerlerini tüm benliğiyle ortaya koymasındadır. Bu makalede, "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" adlı romanında bilinci akışı paradokslar ve ekstra bireysel uyumsuzluklar konusu ile ilgili görüşler irdelenecek. Aslında romanda "uyum ve paradoks" olarak Joyce'nin ulaşabileceği hedefi sadece zihinsel veya psikolojik bir faktör değil, aynı zamanda yazar insan zihninde var olan ve tam da bu noktada devreye giren eşsiz bir sanatsal kavram tekniğini göstermek istemiştir. Bazen insan zihninde kesin olarak doğru veya yanlış bilinen kavramlar çelişki olarak ters sonuçlara bilirdir ve bu özdeşleştirmeler insan mantığının gücü ve idealarına göre paradoks olarak değişik türde tanımlanabilir. James Joyce göre, insan kendini keşfederken gerçek ve bağımsız olur. Estetik güzellik, sanat, aşk ve bu gibi hassas duygular sadece kişinin kendi benliğinin bir parçası olarak görülebilir. Tüm bunlardan yol alarak, yazar "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" adlı romanında Stephan Dedalus'un sanatçı görüşünü gerçek bir prototip olarak değerlendirir ve ayrıca, yazar XIX yüzyılın İrlanda edebi kültüründe modern insanın yaşam mekanizmasını ana paradoks olarak ortaya çıkarıyor.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Sanatsal, teknik, paradokslar, prototip, estetik.

## Introduction

About Joyce, as a modernist writer, we could consider that, the divine revelation of his works, certainly was based on the truths of the realist writers. Like many other modernist writers, James Joyce was already one of the most prominent writers of the era and always was at the center of the attention of Europe and world literary critics. Joyce succeeded in uncovering implications of people's inner world with his novels that gave to classical Irish culture, in the literary process of the XX century. And at the same time, he gave a different kind of contradiction and artistic space to the relationship between man and the world in his novels. He became known as the identity of the meditation and the mind, especially the modernist, cosmopolitan, but scholastic and patriotic. To adhere to the equations of the world medieval philosophy, Joyce often preferred to be alone with himself. Joyce managed to keep different observations in the mainstream in the novel "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" in a very young age. And with it, he was able to define it as a fundamental component of the artistic world of the novel. Although his thoughts are a bit complicated at this point, but, via a more modern approach, he was able to create an art dynamism on Irish culture. "A comic genius, a formal innovator, and an unsentimental poet of Irish life and language, Joyce explored in his work such characteristically modern themes as the nature of art" (Fargnoli and Patrick Gillespie, 2006: 14). After publishing "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man", many critics have not only praised him, many times they have also passed him with criticism (Hulle, 2009:112). Sometimes new critics considered him a genius, Ernest Hemingway, wrote to Sherwood Anderson about "Ulysses": "Joyce has a most god damn wonderful book. It "ll probably reach you in time" (Matos and Oliveria, 2017:200), but most of the time, they saw him as lacking true artistic talent. Among these philosophers, there were a lot of events, those who did not want to know about his contribution to Irish culture and art.

### **“A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” to Adopt as an Artistic Novel**

The name of James Joyce, among the authors of the Irish Renaissance, his relationship with the world literature, his creative talent and artistic methods became to be known for his services, especially in the early XXth century. Thus, with the novel “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” the author's method and stylistic features, language, nationalism, and personality, first of all, began to be recognized as one of the most influential elements of his time and society.

He started to be known more in Irish literature with his novels such as “Ulysses” 1922, (first edition in 1918), and “Finnegans Wake” (1939), just before his death. Despite the nature of the subconscious meanings he implies in his poems and novels, Joyce has sought to preserve the basic set of his novel's original meaning, especially in “Ulysses” and “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man”. But at the same time, the writer also has created more modern, however, additional philosophical and semantic paradoxes due to citation, which gives new expressions and stylistic directions to his works in different colors. Undoubtedly, there has a very different share of political and social developments of the period, in the development of Joyce's first literary essays. Mentioned these differences, manages to create a unique art world together with its use of experimental language and new narrative techniques in the novel of Joyce's “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man”. According to Minodora Otilia Simion, “James Joyce constantly explored the total resources of language in all his writings and he extensively influenced the fictional technique of twentieth-century writers, from traditional realists to experimental postmodernists. (Simion, 2013, 57).

### **Specificity of Paradox in Art Literature “A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man”**

“A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” is not only a fictional novel in terms of style, at the same time, it is a work of art

that influences readers in terms of aesthetics. Hence, it is a reflection of the author's true understanding of his idio style. In such artistic novels, paradoxical thought and paradoxical pieces often emerge as a dominant indicator. For example. The main subject of the work, or artistic harmony and subjectivity, especially, monologic and objectivity and others. But, according to Erkoc, the contradictory situation in Stephen's character is more different: "as a paradoxical reaction on the part of Stephen - in that he is in search of an autonomous self but here he decides to repent and comply himself with the Church - on the other hand, it enables Stephen to develop a much more comprehensive insight concerning the interaction between his mind, body and soul" (Erkoc, 2018, 383). All these paradoxical limits in Joyce's novel are not only part of the literature, but the use of such contradictions as a concept is not at all. The author sometimes forces himself to receive the requested content. And sometimes, it also preserves the main unit of the works in a different whole. For example, James Joyce constantly tries to promote his own hero Stephen with a different identity: - "You are an artist, are you not, Mr. Dedalus said the dean. The object of the artist is the creation of the beautiful". (Joyce, 2011,155).

And sometimes Joyce thinks Stephen owes the society which he lives to; and even, often writer engage him in conversations with family and friends; for instance, "bullying at school; the Jesuit discipline and indoctrination; disputes at home; the sexual yearnings and culminating in Stephen's determination to became a great literary artist". (Watts, 2010, vii).

Despite all this, James Joyce was able to realize the contradiction paradoxes in Stephan's personality. Boes states that "Stephen's sense of his own position in the world changes by the landscape that he glimpses outside of his window." (Boes, 2008, 775).

In the novel, Joyce tries to introduce paradoxical features and contradictions from the pragmatic perspective. These paradoxes that we often encounter aims to address the problems of

society, philosophically. For eg. Joyce's love, attitudes and decisions about marriage (free love and adultery), the coexistence of people in society, and their interaction with society often help to reveal the so-called characteristic paradox. "Joyce, in rejecting marriage and in forming his relationship with Nora, and he has ceased to believe in Catholicism" in Stephen and Bloom's mind: "They disbelieve in religion but believe in sex" (Brown, 1985, 16).

Indeed, on the one hand, the modernist writer even though he tries to show the discrepancy between eccentricity and spirituality in the character of Stephen with a mutual shyness, but on the other hand, Joyce is trying to put a sense of innate justice in Stephen's soul in a creative language. "At the end of the novel, he understood that all the ways which he had gone, was wrong and invaluable so thereafter he decides to make himself ready for what he belongs to." (Azizmohammadi and Kamarzade 2014,165).

In this example, the fact that whatever the reason, we see the concept of two minds (thoughts) that create uncertainty: *Discrepancy between Stephen's spirituality; and Stephen's extraordinary sense of justice*. Two opposite and paradoxical views and expressions against each other.

As previously stated, Joyce considers the concept of "inconsistency and justice" as the reference point in the character of Stephen, and the author tries to keep it in the balance as a paradox, as one of the most important products of literature.

### **Typology of Paradoxes in the Novel**

When we look at the etymology of the concept of "paradox", we see that it arose to characterize a new and original view in ancient Greek philosophy. Most of the time, the paradox as a stylistic tool is based on ancient discourses and interpreted in modern science in terms of logic, philosophy, linguistics, art and literature. In many of the works of modern world writers, the use of paradoxes is very interesting, because some-

times these paradoxes can be seen as very unreasonable but these are actually interpreted as the fundamental theory of very logical-philosophical propositions. In other words, it is accepted as the contradiction of two lines or two wrongs.

The use of paradox in art and artistic works is not just a problem, at the same time, it is also a kind of contradiction in time, space and other inconsistency or instability.

Goethe states that "In the middle between two opposing judgments lies not the truth, but the problem. Add: when these opposites are united in one judgment, a paradox is born". (Эпштейн,1988, 6). Oscar Wilde "The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it (to accept it). (Wilde, 2011,25).

As we have seen from this example, Stephen knows all the facts in his brain and soul, he also knows his longing for prohibited things, but these facts do not end somehow. He cannot solve the key concept in his thinking as a kind. Herewith, he thought that he will never be too happy because of his religion and on the pressure of family and society. Joyce's genius himself cannot do without paradoxes, without sharpening the contradictions full of crises. The contradiction in Stephen's thinking is a paradox in action.

Because, it is possible to describe the paradox from the pragmatic point of view from Joyce's "Portrait"; according to the functional sign, various paradoxical contradictions reflecting the predecessors can also be identified. The most common phenomenon of the novel Stephen is also a paradox that affects literary problems that are important for the development of society and are classified as cultural. According to Bulson "Stephen belongs a bit to both traditions: he comes up against the social, political, and religious institutions that want to conform, and he rejects them for the artistic life" (Bulson,2006,49).

Let us try to analyze the characteristics of the functioning of the paradox types mentioned in a "Portrait". Paradoxically, we see that there are also different types and typological struc-

tures among the contradictory expressions in the "Portrait". For example, the characterological paradox, the plot paradox; the philosophical paradox; the historical paradoxes; characteristic paradoxes and others.

The XIXth century was a period that introduced and revealed important events and cultures of the world. The author, by using such paradoxes throughout the whole novel, tries to deeply explain that Stephen belongs to both (Irish and English) tradition, the difference between his inner world and his external world, and the interaction of people in society with him. This kind of approach Joyce's to his heroin "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man", it can create more specific *historical* paradoxes and awareness in his work defining important events and cultures of a particular period. And also, paradoxically, expresses the commitment to each other.

Despite the emergence of paradoxical judgments and the nature of the deep meanings implied by the author, the *philosophical* paradox is often found in the works of James Joyce. Let's analyze some examples from his novel "Ulysses":

Buck Mulligan cried with delight:

O, won't we have a merry time,

Drinking whiskey, beer and wine,

On coronation

Coronation day?

O, won't we have a merry time,

On coronation day? (Johnson, 1993,11). or "We'll have a glorious drunk to astonish the druidy druids". (ibid).

Compare: The conversation between Stephen and Buck Mulligan as a philosophical paradox, can be reflected the context of a novel. As if there have no cost, to the crowning ceremony of special importance for Britain and the Irish monarchy; but it is a fact that drinking wine and being drunk is very valuable for them. According to the syntactic method, the paradoxes

as (Coronation day and Drinking whiskey) mentioned here are philosophically oppositional paradoxes. In other words, it is the opposing relations with each other, as the lexical or contextual logic of an expression containing two words. In another example: "Stephen similarly escapes from Ireland and takes flight, only to penetrate the labyrinth of Irish consciousness from afar and to judge all he has known". (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2004, 843).

Stephen's escape from Ireland and judging everything he knows in life in Ireland.

Paradoxical judgment aims to update two conflicting meanings at the same time. While the antithesis is clearly visible, paradox perception in this example (running and judgment), Joyce also reveals the causal emphasis of paradoxicality on another in parallel. No doubt, when viewed from two contradictory positions in Stephen's character, we see how paradoxically capable in every person's life. On the other hand, the paradox of how universal and how much it realized, the inconsistency is so bright and clear in human thought.

### **Conclusion**

As a result, the novel of James Joyce "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" is in the list of the most valuable works in the world, in terms of traditional art, both in the history of the world literature and in style. However, in terms of content, the human qualities represented by the types chosen in the novel represent a contradictory dynamic rhythm at different stages. Stephen was more particularly passionate about art, but he had not yet contributed to Irish literary culture and art. For this reason, as a young artist, he must invent different levels to broaden his horizons at every step.

In evaluating these character types in his novel, Joyce reveals not only Stephen's contradictory mind but also the importance of the regeneration and creation of Irish history and literature at the beginning of the twentieth century. At the same

time, the author, in contrast to his own opinion and narrative views, Joyce leads out through Stephen the radical return and experiences in his hero's conception. In fact, Joyce tried to look at the different aspects of Stephen's culture and literary attitude from his own point of view with the perception of Ireland's European styles. In other words, Joyce makes it possible to highlight the most accurate way, as an artist in Stephen's vision is the most basic characteristics. Of course, most of the words spoken by Stephen astonish the imagination and the thought of the readers. Because unlike ordinary ideas, the author has succeeded in creating a different, unique image by using persuasive, but paradoxical expressions in Stephen's within.

Finally, although the events in the novel of "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" while trying to explain from the language of others, in the end, everything is filtered by Stephen's consciousness.

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