

## STYLISTIC PECULIARITIES OF LITERARY TEXT IN CREATIVE WORKS OF BERNARD SHAW

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### *Abstract:*

George Bernard Shaw, renowned for his wit, satire, and keen observation of society, stands as one of the most influential playwrights and essayists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This article delves into the stylistic peculiarities evident in Shaw's literary texts, examining his use of language, dialogue, characterization, and thematic motifs. Shaw's distinctive style, characterized by sharp wit, provocative dialogue, and socio-political commentary, not only revolutionized the theatrical landscape but also left an indelible mark on the literary world. Through an analysis of selected works, including "Pygmalion," "Mrs. Warren's Profession," and "Man and Superman," this paper explores the nuances of Shaw's literary craftsmanship, shedding light on the enduring relevance of his artistic legacy.

*Key words:* stylistic peculiarities, literary text, dialogue, social commentary

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### Introduction

George Bernard Shaw, a luminary of the literary and theatrical world, transcended the boundaries of his time with his innovative approach to storytelling and his incisive commentary on society. Born in 1856, Shaw's literary career spanned over six decades, during which he penned numerous plays, essays, and critiques that challenged conventional norms and provoked critical thought. Shaw's enduring legacy lies not only in his prolific output but also in the stylistic peculiarities that define his creative works.

Shaw's literary texts, characterized by sharp wit, provocative dialogue, and astute social observation, continue to captivate audiences and inspire scholars to delve deeper into their complexities. This article aims to explore the distinctive stylistic features evident in Shaw's creative works, shedding light on the nuances of his craftsmanship and the enduring relevance of his artistic vision.

From his seminal play "Pygmalion," [1] which explores themes of class, identity, and transformation, to the biting social satire of "Mrs. Warren's Profession" [2] and the philosophical depth of "Man and Superman," [3] Shaw's oeuvre traverses a wide spectrum of human experience and societal concerns. Through an analysis of selected works, we will unravel the intricacies of Shaw's language, dialogue, characterization, and thematic motifs, seeking to understand the profound impact of his literary legacy.

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As we embark on this exploration of Shaw's stylistic peculiarities, we are invited to engage with the timeless questions and universal truths that animate his works. Shaw's writings serve as a mirror to society, reflecting its virtues and vices with unflinching honesty and irrepressible wit [4]. By examining the distinctiveness of Shaw's literary texts, we gain deeper insight into the complexities of human nature, the dynamics of social interaction, and the enduring quest for meaning and justice in an ever-changing world.

A hallmark of George Bernard Shaw's literary style lies in his masterful command of language and his ability to craft dynamic and thought-provoking dialogue [5]. Shaw's use of language is marked by its precision, economy, and versatility, allowing him to convey complex ideas with clarity and impact. His dialogue, in particular, serves as a vehicle for social critique, philosophical inquiry, and character development, imbuing his works with depth and resonance.

Shaw's characters engage in lively and often contentious exchanges, characterized by wit, irony, and rhetorical flourish. Dialogue in Shaw's plays is not merely a means of advancing the plot but a central component of the dramatic action, revealing the motivations, conflicts, and aspirations of the characters. Shaw's characters speak with distinct voices, reflecting their personalities, social backgrounds, and ideological perspectives. From the erudite repartee of Henry Higgins in "Pygmalion" to the impassioned pleas of Mrs. Warren in "Mrs. Warren's Profession," Shaw's characters come to life through their dialogue, challenging the audience to grapple with complex moral and social dilemmas.

Moreover, Shaw's dialogue is imbued with layers of meaning and subtext, inviting audiences to read between the lines and discern the deeper implications of the characters' words and actions [6]. His plays often feature extended debates and intellectual sparring matches, in which characters articulate conflicting viewpoints and engage in dialectical exchanges. Through these dialogic encounters, Shaw encourages audiences to question prevailing assumptions, challenge established norms, and consider alternative perspectives.

In addition to its thematic richness, Shaw's dialogue is notable for its linguistic innovation and experimentalism. Shaw was a pioneer in the use of phonetic spelling and dialect representation, seeking to capture the rhythms and cadences of everyday speech [7]. In "Pygmalion," for instance, Shaw employs phonetic transcription to vividly depict the accents and idiosyncrasies of the characters' speech, thereby highlighting the social and linguistic divisions that shape their interactions.

Overall, Shaw's language and dialogue exemplify his commitment to artistic innovation, intellectual engagement, and social relevance. Through his meticulous attention to language and his skillful manipulation of dialogue, Shaw invites audiences to participate in a dynamic exchange of ideas, emotions, and perspectives, fostering a deeper appreciation for the complexities of human communication and the enduring power of the spoken word.

George Bernard Shaw's approach to characterization in his literary works is characterized by depth, complexity, and a departure from traditional dramatic archetypes. Rather than relying on simple binaries of hero and villain, Shaw's characters are multifaceted individuals whose motivations, conflicts, and moral ambiguities reflect the nuances of human experience.

Shaw's characters often defy easy categorization, challenging audiences to reconsider their preconceptions and assumptions. In "Pygmalion," for example, the protagonist Henry Higgins is a brilliant but arrogant phonetics professor whose efforts to transform Eliza Doolittle's speech and manners raise questions about power, agency, and social class. Similarly, Eliza herself undergoes a profound transformation throughout the play, evolving from a Cockney flower girl into a self-assured and independent woman who asserts her own identity and agency.

Moreover, Shaw's characters are imbued with psychological depth and complexity, making them compelling and relatable to audiences. Rather than being mere vehicles for advancing the plot, Shaw's characters possess inner lives, desires, and contradictions that shape their actions and interactions. In "Mrs. Warren's Profession," for instance, the titular character is portrayed not as a one-dimensional villain but as a complex woman who grapples with the ethical implications of her choices and the societal constraints that have shaped her life.

Furthermore, Shaw's characters often serve as mouthpieces for his own ideological and philosophical beliefs, engaging in spirited debates and intellectual exchanges that illuminate the central themes of his plays. Whether discussing socialism, feminism, or the nature of morality, Shaw's characters embody a range of perspectives and worldviews, challenging audiences to consider alternative ways of thinking and living.

In addition to their psychological depth and ideological significance, Shaw's characters are also distinguished by their vividness and authenticity. Shaw was known for his keen powers of observation and his ability to capture the idiosyncrasies of human behavior with precision and wit. From the pompous posturing of Alfred Doolittle in "Pygmalion" to the earnest idealism of John Tanner in "Man and Superman," Shaw's characters are rendered with a richness and vitality that bring them to life on the stage.

Overall, Shaw's approach to characterization reflects his commitment to realism, complexity, and intellectual engagement. By creating characters who are morally ambiguous, psychologically nuanced, and ideologically diverse, Shaw challenges audiences to confront the complexities of human nature and the ambiguities of social life, thereby fostering a deeper understanding of the human condition.

George Bernard Shaw's creative works are replete with thematic motifs that reflect his keen interest in social justice, human agency, and the complexities of the human condition. Through his plays, essays, and critiques, Shaw grappled with a wide range of issues, from class struggle and gender equality to the nature of morality and the pursuit of self-realization. His thematic motifs serve as a lens through which he explores the fundamental questions of existence and challenges prevailing ideologies and norms.

One of the central thematic motifs in Shaw's work is the tension between individual autonomy and societal constraints. Shaw was deeply concerned with the ways in which social institutions, such as class, gender, and religion, shape and limit individual freedom. In plays like "Pygmalion" and "Mrs. Warren's Profession," Shaw interrogates the impact of social hierarchy and economic exploitation on the lives of ordinary people, highlighting the ways in which systemic injustices perpetuate inequality and undermine human dignity.

Moreover, Shaw's works frequently explore the theme of moral ambiguity and the complexities of ethical decision-making. Rather than presenting clear-

cut moral binaries, Shaw's characters grapple with ethical dilemmas and conflicting imperatives, forcing audiences to confront the ambiguities of right and wrong. In "Man and Superman," for example, the protagonist John Tanner wrestles with the question of whether to embrace his individual desires or adhere to society's expectations, ultimately questioning the very notion of moral responsibility.

Furthermore, Shaw's thematic motifs often reflect his commitment to social reform and progressive change. Throughout his career, Shaw advocated for a more equitable and compassionate society, challenging entrenched power structures and advocating for the rights of the marginalized and oppressed. In plays like "Major Barbara" and "The Doctor's Dilemma," Shaw confronts issues such as poverty, healthcare, and the ethical responsibilities of the privileged, urging audiences to confront the social injustices that persist in their own communities.

In addition to these overarching thematic motifs, Shaw's works are characterized by a rich tapestry of secondary themes and motifs, including the nature of art and creativity, the role of education in shaping identity, and the pursuit of meaning and fulfillment in a chaotic world. Through his exploration of these themes, Shaw invites audiences to engage with the complexities of human experience and to consider alternative ways of living and thinking.

In conclusion, the thematic motifs in George Bernard Shaw's creative works reflect his deep engagement with the pressing social, moral, and existential questions of his time. Through his plays, essays, and critiques, Shaw challenged audiences to confront their own assumptions and prejudices, urging them to imagine a more just and compassionate world. As we revisit Shaw's works today, his thematic motifs continue to resonate, inviting us to grapple with the enduring dilemmas of human existence and to strive for a more equitable and humane society.

#### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the creative works of George Bernard Shaw stand as enduring testaments to his literary genius, intellectual acumen, and unwavering commitment to social justice. Throughout his career, Shaw employed a distinctive blend of sharp wit, incisive social commentary, and philosophical depth to interrogate the complexities of human nature and the dynamics of society. His plays, essays, and critiques not only entertained audiences but also challenged prevailing norms and ideologies, provoking critical thought and inspiring social change.

Through an analysis of Shaw's stylistic peculiarities, including his mastery of language and dialogue, his nuanced characterization, and his exploration of thematic motifs, we gain deeper insight into the enduring relevance of his artistic legacy. Shaw's language, characterized by its precision, economy, and versatility, served as a powerful tool for conveying complex ideas and engaging audiences in a dynamic exchange of perspectives. His characters, rich in psychological depth and moral complexity, challenged audiences to reconsider their preconceptions and confront the ambiguities of human existence. And his thematic motifs, ranging from the tension between individual autonomy and societal constraints to the pursuit of social justice and moral responsibility, continue to resonate with audiences today, inviting us to reflect on our own values and beliefs.

As we revisit Shaw's creative works, we are reminded of the enduring power of art to provoke thought, inspire action, and foster empathy. Shaw's legacy serves as a beacon for future generations of artists, writers, and activists, urging them to use their talents and platforms to challenge injustice, promote equality, and envision a more just and compassionate world. In this way, Shaw's creative works continue to serve as a testament to the transformative potential of literature and the enduring relevance of his artistic vision.

In the words of Shaw himself, "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." Through his creative works, Shaw invites us to embark on a journey of self-discovery and self-creation, challenging us to imagine new possibilities and to strive for a better world for all. As we celebrate Shaw's legacy, let us also heed his call to action and continue the work of building a more just, equitable, and compassionate society for generations to come.

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