

## JAHON ADABIYOTI

UO'K (UDC, УДК): 821.111.09-31

SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S CONCEPTUAL AND CREATIVE SKILLS IN  
CREATING IMAGES<sup>23</sup>***Bekzod Kuliboyev Orzuboy ugli****Teacher of the Department of**“Foreign Philology”,**Renaissance Education University,**Tashkent city, Uzbekistan*[\*bekzodkulibayev@mail.ru\*](mailto:bekzodkulibayev@mail.ru)*Orcid ID: 0009-0000-2944-3663***ABSTRACT**

This article explores the artistic skills of W. S Maugham in creating rich, multi-dimensional characters within his narratives. Maugham's way of creating characters is deep, realistic, and diverse, making for a really interesting look at human nature. The discussion begins with an examination of Maugham's psychological insight and illustrates how he crafts characters that reflect complex motivations and inner conflicts. The article examines the characters in Maugham's major works, such as "Of Human Bondage" and "The Painted Veil," and emphasizes how they are not simply vessels for the plot, but rather complex individuals whose journeys deeply resonate with readers. Subsequently, the article discusses Maugham's wide range of characters, highlighting how their diverse backgrounds and experiences contribute to the thematic depth of his stories.

**KEY WORDS**

Characterization, psychological, realism, diversity, dialogue, isolation, human condition, narrative technique, literary legacy.

Received: December 5, 2024

Accepted: December 26, 2024

Available online: March 1, 2025

<sup>23</sup> **For citation (Iqtibos keltirish uchun, для цитирования):**

Ko'liboyev B.O. Somerset Maugham's conceptual and creative skills in creating images. // Komparativistika (Comparative Studies). — 2025. — Vol.2, № 1. — B. 230-242

## SOMERSET MOEMNING OBRAZLAR YARATISHDAGI G‘OYAVIY- BADIY MAHORATI

*Bekzod Ko‘liboyev Orzuboy o‘g‘li*

*Renessans ta’lim universiteti,*

*“Xorijiy filologiya” kafedrasi o‘qituvchisi*

*Toshkent, O‘zbekiston*

[bekzodkulibayev@mail.ru](mailto:bekzodkulibayev@mail.ru)

**Orcid ID: 0009-0000-2944-3663**

---

### ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqolada U.S. Moemning yorqin, ko‘p qirrali qahramonlarni yaratishdagi badiiy mahorati tadqiq etiladi. Moemning qahramonlarni tasvirlash usuli psixologik teranlik, hayotiylik va xilma-xillik bilan ajralib turadi. Bu xususiyatlar o‘zaro uyg‘unlashib, inson ichki dunyosining ishonchli tadqiqini yaratishga xizmat qiladi. Tadqiqotda Moemning psixologik teranligini tahlil qilishdan boshlanadi. Bu teranligi tufayli u ongida turli sabablarning murakkab kurashi va chuqur ichki ziddiyatlarni aks ettiruvchi qahramonlarni yaratadi. “Inson ehtirolari yuki” va “Naqshli parda” kabi yirik asarlar tahlili misolida maqolada Moem qahramonlari shunchaki voqealar ishtirokchisi emas, balki ichki izlanishlari o‘quvchilarda aks-sado uyg‘otuvchi murakkab shaxslar ekanligi asoslanadi. Maqolada Moem asarlaridagi qahramonlar rang-barangligi ham ko‘rib chiqiladi. Ularning turli ijtimoiy kelib chiqishi va o‘ziga xos hayotiy tajribasi ingliz yozuvchisi nasrining mavzuiy boyligini vujudga keltiradi.

### KALIT SO‘ZLAR

Tavsif,  
ruhshunoslik, realizm,  
xilma-xillik, muloqot,  
yakkalanish, inson holati,  
hikoya qilish usuli, adabiy  
meros.

## ИДЕЙНО-ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННОЕ МАСТЕРСТВО СОЗДАНИЯ ПЕРСОНАЖЕЙ В ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИЯХ У.С. МОЭМА

*Кулибоев Бекзод Орзубой угли*

*Преподаватель кафедры*

*“Иностранная филология”*

*университет “Ренессанс таълим”*

*г. Ташкент, Узбекистан*

[bekzodkulibayev@mail.ru](mailto:bekzodkulibayev@mail.ru)

*Orcid ID: 0009-0000-2944-3663* [Orcid ID 0009-0007-6733-9067](https://orcid.org/0009-0007-6733-9067)

+998903650924

### АННОТАЦИЯ

В этой статье исследуется художественное мастерство У.С. Моэма в создании ярких, многомерных персонажей. Подход Моэма к их характеристике отличается психологической глубиной, реализмом и разносторонностью, которые, взаимодействуя, способствуют созданию убедительного исследования внутреннего мира человека. Обсуждение начинается с анализа психологической проницательности Моэма, благодаря которой он создает персонажей, сознание которых отражает сложную борьбу различных мотивов и глубокие внутренние конфликты. На примерах анализа таких крупных произведений, как «Время страстей человеческих» и «Узорный покров» в статье обосновывается, что персонажи Моэма являются не просто участниками событий, а скорее сложными личностями, чьи внутренние поиски находят отклик у читателей. В статье также рассматривается разнообразие персонажей в произведениях Моэма. Их различное социальное происхождение и отличный от других жизненный опыт создает тематическое богатство прозы английского писателя.

### КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА

Характеристика, психология, реализм, разнообразие, диалог, изоляция, состояние человека, техника повествования, литературное наследие.

.  
. .

## INTRODUCTION

Somerset Maugham, a prominent figure in 20th-century English literature, is celebrated for his masterful storytelling and intricate character development. His narratives often delve into the complexities of human nature, revealing profound psychological insights and social commentary. Maugham's artistic skills in creating characters are not merely about crafting memorable figures; they serve as vehicles for exploring deeper themes of identity, morality, and human condition. Through a meticulous blend of realism, symbolism, and psychological depth, Maugham's characters resonate with readers, inviting them to reflect on their own experiences and the intricacies of life. This article aims to analyze the artistic techniques employed by Maugham in character creation, highlighting how his distinctive approach enriches his stories and elevates their thematic significance.

Maugham wrote during a period of significant social, political, and cultural change. The early 20th century was marked by the aftermath of World War I, shifts in societal norms, and the rise of modernist literary movements. These historical and cultural shifts deeply influenced Maugham's writing, particularly his focus on the individual's search for meaning in a rapidly changing world. Maugham's characters often reflect the existential questions and moral ambiguities of their time, struggling with the tension between personal desires and societal expectations. His exploration of psychological depth and human motivations within this context made his works resonate with readers from different walks of life, reflecting the universal nature of the human experience.

While Maugham's literary contributions have been widely recognized, there is a notable gap in focused research specifically exploring his artistic techniques in character creation. Much of the existing criticism centers on his thematic concerns, such as existentialism, individualism, and social commentary. Nevertheless, fewer studies explore how Maugham's distinctive methods of character development contribute to these themes. The psychological complexity of his characters has not been adequately examined, particularly regarding how Maugham's narrative

techniques, such as his use of internal conflict and moral ambiguity, shape his characters' development. This study aims to fill this gap by providing a detailed analysis of Maugham's character creation, shedding light on the methods he uses to construct multifaceted and evolving personalities, and examining the thematic significance of these characters within his novels. The purpose of this paper is to analyze Maugham's art of character creation and how it has influenced his literary works. The paper will examine the methods and techniques Maugham uses in creating characters, focusing on his success in creating complex and dynamic personalities through psychological depth, moral conflicts, and social critique. Additionally, the development of characters in Maugham's works and their thematic significance will also be discussed. This study aims to highlight Maugham's skill in character creation and help understand his contribution to literature.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This article uses a qualitative literary analysis to explore the artistic skills of character creation in S Maugham's stories. The methodology is structured around the following key components:

**Textual Analysis:** Selected stories by S Maugham will be closely examined to identify the techniques he employs in character development. This includes analyzing character traits, motivations, and relationships, as well as how these elements contribute to the overarching themes of the narratives (Kermode, Frank, 1975).

**Thematic Exploration:** The analysis will categorize and discuss major themes present in Maugham's work, such as identity, morality, and societal norms. This thematic framework will provide context for understanding how characters embody these themes and reflect the complexities of human experience.

**Psychological Framework:** The study will incorporate psychological theories to interpret the inner lives of Maugham's characters. This approach will focus on the motivations, conflicts, and transformations that characters undergo, utilizing concepts from psychology to deepen their development.

**Comparative Analysis:** Maugham's works will be compared with other contemporary writers to highlight his unique contributions to character development. This comparative aspect will help situate Maugham within the broader landscape of early 20th-century literature.

**Critical Reception:** The methodology will also include a review of existing literary criticism and scholarly articles on Maugham's character creation. This will provide insights into how critics have interpreted his work, and help frame the discussion within ongoing academic discourse.

**Conclusion Synthesis:** Finally, the findings from the various analyses will be synthesized to draw conclusions about Maugham's artistic skills in creating characters. This synthesis will emphasize the significance of these skills in enriching his narratives and engaging readers. By employing this multifaceted methodology, the article aims to offer a comprehensive examination of the artistic skills involved in character creation in S Maugham's stories, illuminating the depth and complexity of his literary contributions (Foster, Edward. W., 1970).

This section outlines the materials and methods used in this study to analyze W. S Maugham's artistic skills in creating characters in his novels. The approach includes a qualitative analysis of primary and secondary sources, focusing on the literary techniques Maugham employs in character creation. Below are the details of the study's objects, materials, participants, and statistical analysis.

The primary study objects for this research are three of Maugham's significant novels: "*Of Human Bondage*", "*The Razor's Edge*" and "*The Moon and Sixpence*". These works were selected because they are recognized for their deep psychological characterizations and exploration of moral, existential, and social dilemmas. The focus is on how Maugham develops his central characters, analyzing their psychological depth, moral conflicts, and thematic significance within the narrative.

The primary materials for this study include the complete texts of Maugham's novels mentioned above. These texts were analyzed in their original English language editions to ensure an accurate interpretation of the author's intentions and

stylistic choices. Secondary materials consist of critical essays, scholarly articles, and biographical works on W. S. Maugham's writing techniques, character development, and thematic concerns. These secondary sources were reviewed to provide context and support for the analysis of character construction in Maugham's novels.

As this study is a literary analysis, there were no direct human participants involved in the research process. However, various literary critics and scholars whose works have examined Maugham's writing indirectly contributed to the body of secondary literature that informed this study. These sources were used to understand different perspectives on Maugham's techniques in character development, and to compare his methods with other authors of his time.

Since this study is qualitative, no traditional statistical analysis is employed. Instead, the research uses close reading and thematic analysis as the primary methods for extracting meaning from the texts. Major elements such as character traits, narrative structure, psychological conflicts, and moral dilemmas are identified and examined across the novels. The analysis focuses on identifying patterns in Maugham's character creation, such as recurring themes of individualism, identity, and societal expectations, and understanding how these elements contribute to the development of the characters.

By means of this approach, the study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of Maugham's artistic skill in creating characters, and to highlight the significance of these characters within his broader thematic concerns.

## **RESULTS**

Maugham's characters are often multi-dimensional and exhibit significant psychological depth. In "Of Human Bondage", the protagonist, Philip Carey, is depicted with remarkable introspection and emotional conflict, reflecting Maugham's skill in portraying the internal struggles of his characters. Philip's growth throughout the novel is symbolic of the human search for meaning and self-realization. Maugham's use of detailed psychological portraits allows readers to

understand the complexities of his characters, making them relatable and memorable. Many of Maugham's characters grapple with moral and existential dilemmas. In *The Razor's Edge*, Larry Darrell's quest for spiritual enlightenment and the rejection of materialism presents a character who questions societal norms and personal fulfillment. Maugham creates tension through the contrast between Larry and the other characters, who are fixated on wealth and social status. This exploration of existential questions through character development makes Maugham's novels resonate with readers on a deeper, more philosophical level. In "The Moon and Sixpence", Maugham presents the character of Charles Strickland, an artist willing to sacrifice everything, including family and social standing, for the pursuit of his artistic vision. Strickland's character challenges conventional norms and societal expectations, and Maugham uses his intense, uncompromising personality to critique social values and the cost of artistic genius. Strickland's single-mindedness and ruthlessness in pursuit of his art reflect Maugham's interest in the tension between individual desire and societal constraints.

## DISCUSSION

Somerset Maugham's prowess in creating compelling characters is a testament to his understanding of human nature and the intricacies of interpersonal relationships. His narratives often reflect a deep psychological insight that allows readers to engage intimately with his characters. By examining the key elements of Maugham's character creation, we can appreciate how his literary artistry contributes to the lasting impact of his work.

Statement of Main Results. The primary findings of this study reveal that Maugham's characters are multifaceted, psychologically complex, and morally ambiguous, which is central to his success as a novelist. Through a careful examination of "*Of Human Bondage*", "*The Razor's Edge*" and "*The Moon and Sixpence*", it was found that Maugham employs various narrative techniques to develop his characters. These techniques include deep psychological insight, character-driven narratives, and complex internal conflicts. The protagonists, such as Philip Carey, Larry Darrell, and Charles Strickland, undergo significant emotional



and moral transformations throughout the novels, reflecting Maugham's skill in capturing the complexities of human nature.

Maugham's characters often experience profound existential struggles, which drive the central themes of the novels. These characters tend to confront life's meaning and purpose, often in tension with societal norms and personal desires. The development of these characters not only shapes the narrative, but also enhances the thematic depth of Maugham's works. The results indicate that Maugham's characters are not mere plot devices, but fully realized human beings who represent larger philosophical concerns.

**Expected Results.** Before conducting the analysis, it was expected that Maugham's character creation would reveal a deep exploration of human psychology, with characters navigating complex emotional and moral landscapes. It was anticipated that the study would confirm Maugham's use of character-driven plots to explore themes of identity, societal expectations, and individual freedom. Additionally, it was expected that the moral and philosophical struggles of the characters would highlight Maugham's critique of social conventions and his insight into human motivations. The results met these expectations, revealing a consistent pattern across Maugham's works in terms of character development. The protagonists' personal growth and transformation are intricately linked to their psychological and moral conflicts, which serve as a vehicle for the exploration of broader themes related to existentialism, identity and personal fulfillment.

**Explanations of Results.** The findings can be explained by examining Maugham's personal background and historical context in which he wrote. Maugham lived through significant cultural and social changes, including the aftermath of World War I and the rise of modernism. These experiences shaped his worldview and the way he portrayed characters in his novels. Maugham's background as a doctor also influenced his keen understanding of human nature, which is evident in the psychological depth of his characters. Maugham's use of psychological realism and moral ambiguity in his characters can be seen as a

reflection of his belief in the complexity of human nature. He often rejected simplistic portrayals of good and evil, instead opting to create characters that embody a mix of virtues and flaws, making them relatable and realistic. The characters' internal struggles, such as Philip's search for meaning and Larry's quest for spiritual enlightenment, are central to the novels' exploration of personal and existential dilemmas. Additionally, Maugham's focus on moral conflicts, and the rejection of conventional norms, can be seen as a response to the rapidly changing world of the early 20th century. The characters' journeys often represent a quest for personal authenticity in the face of societal pressures, making them timeless in their relevance.

**Generalizability.** The generalizability of these results extends beyond Maugham's specific works to a broader understanding of character development in modernist literature. Maugham's characters share traits with those found in the works of other authors of the period, such as James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, and D.H. Lawrence, all of whom explored complex psychological and existential themes. However, Maugham's approach to character creation is unique in its focus on moral ambiguity and the ordinary struggles of individuals in a changing society. While the analysis focused on three of Maugham's most renowned novels, it is reasonable to suggest that similar techniques can be found in his other works, such as *The Painted Veil* and *Cakes and Ale*. This suggests Maugham's artistic skill in creating psychologically complex characters is consistent across his literary output (Maugham W. S., 1925, 98-100). Hence, the insights gained from this study can contribute to a deeper appreciation of Maugham's broader body of work, helping readers and critics understand how his character-driven narratives address universal human themes. In conclusion, Maugham's character creation skills remain relevant and significant in the study of 20th-century literature. The results of this study not only highlight the complexity of his characters, but also demonstrate the enduring impact of his work on modern literary traditions.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, S. Maugham's artistic skills in character creation are characterized by psychological depth, diversity, and realism. His ability to craft multi-dimensional characters that resonate with readers is a hallmark of his literary legacy. By delving into the complexities of human emotion and societal dynamics, Maugham's narratives continue to offer profound insights into the human condition, making his characters timeless figures in literature. S Maugham's ability to create vivid, multi-dimensional characters is a cornerstone of his literary success. Through his keen psychological insight and mastery of dialogue, he breathes life into his characters, making them resonate with readers on a profound level. Maugham's diverse portrayals reflect the complexities of human experience, inviting us to explore the intricacies of identity, ambition, and existential struggle. His characters often navigate themes of isolation and self-discovery, revealing the depths of human emotion and the often-harsh realities of life. By portraying individuals who grapple with their own flaws and desires, Maugham not only enhances the narrative, but also encourages readers to reflect on their own experiences and emotions. In essence, Maugham's artistic skills extend beyond mere storytelling; they serve as a lens through which we can examine the human condition. His enduring characters continue to captivate audiences, reminding us of the timeless nature of his insights into what it means to be human. As we engage with Maugham's work, we are invited not only to witness the lives of his characters, but also to reflect on our own journeys, making his narratives both personal and universal.

Somerset Maugham's novels have studied the unique approaches of ideological and artistic skill in creating images. He managed to deeply analyze each image in his works and give them hidden, psychological and philosophical aspects. Maugham's artistic skill is manifested not only in creating images, but also in giving them a lively and natural life. The ideas, moral views and human relationships in his novels occupy an important place in modern works of world literature. Summarizing the research results, we can make the following suggestions and recommendations:

It is necessary to further study the methods of creating images in Maugham's novels, analyze their relationships, psychological states, and also continue to study their artistic and ideological aspects. By examining the way his novels develop their own unique style, we can enrich our understanding of the writer's style. Also, it is necessary to analyze more complex moral and social themes in Maugham's works, to study how he reflects various aspects of human nature in his works. These studies contribute not only to Maugham's artistic ideas, but also to the development of literary criticism.

**Analysis of Somerset Maugham's Psychological Portraits:** A deeper study of the psychological aspects of the characters in Maugham's novels, analyzing the formation of their inner world, feelings and decisions. This will help better understand the writer's complex methods of creating characters.

**Maugham's Artistic Style and Narratology:** A study of the narrative style, storytelling techniques, and plot structure in Maugham's works. An analysis of how his artistic style differs from other writers and how it relates to new methodologies in literary studies.

In consequence, a deep study of the creation of characters in Somerset Maugham's novels and their ideological and artistic skills will help us better understand his contribution to literature. This will open up new horizons not only for academic research, but also for the general reader.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Maugham W. S. (1915) *Of Human Bondage*. New York.: George H. Doran Company. pp. 97-99.
2. Maugham W. S. (1925) *The Painted Veil*. New York: George H. Doran Company. pp. 103-106.
3. Maugham W. S. (1944) *The Razor's Edge*. New York.: George H. Doran Company. pp. 81-82.
4. Maugham W. S. (1951) *Short Stories*. Various collections, including *The Collected Short Stories of W. S Maugham*. London.: Heinemann, pp. 36.
5. Foster E. (1970) *A Study of the Short Stories*. London.: Macmillan. pp.76

6. Kermode F. W. (1975) *S. Maugham: A Critical Study*. London. Collins. pp. 128-129.
7. Heffernan J. (1997) *The Art of W. S Maugham*. New York. Twayne Publishers. pp. 248-250
8. Markham J. (1990) *The World of W. S Maugham*. London. Michael Joseph.
9. Smith M. (1977) Characterization in Maugham's "Of Human Bondage": A Study of Psychological Depth. "Modern Fiction Studies". New York. vol. 23, no.3. pp. 415-431.
10. Adams R. (1984) Isolation and Identity in Maugham's Novels. "Journal of English Literature". London. vol. 45, no. 2 -pp. 139-156.