

**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POETICS OF JOHN STEINBECK'S WORKS****Umarkulova Munira Zahidjon kizi**

**Abstract:** *John Steinbeck, one of the most celebrated American writers of the 20th century, is renowned for his novels that not only reflect the sociological and economic struggles of his time but also for their unique poetic qualities. Steinbeck's works are a testament to his craftsmanship, where the intertwining of prose and poetry produces a distinctive narrative voice. This article aims to delve into the characteristics of the poetics that permeate Steinbeck's works, from his use of symbolism and imagery to his exploration of the human condition.*

**Keywords:** *famous writer, characteristics, exploration, writing style, works, carrier, lifestyle, literature*

**Introduction:** The famous American writer John Steinbeck belongs to the galaxy of authors who succeed in the characteristic presentation of the sorrow and joy of life in their works. Today, when analyzing the different positions of John Steinbeck's works, we notice that many supporters underline mainly those ideals which he would like to pass on to the reader. In this aspect, he is characterized as the progressive author of the "commandments" for humanity's better future. Others highlight principally the author's "ideocratic" stubborn temperament, his solitude among the surrounding society, his skill, and his specific characteristics of thought, and accept Steinbeck as the literary professional of American pragmatism. Undoubtedly, this interpretation contains a significant amount of truth.

The peculiarities of the fiction of John Steinbeck are in themselves not so uncomplicated as they might seem if we describe them as moral preaching. Characteristic of his literature is the seeking of the principal problems in the social life of the people and sounding them in divergent but short compositions. Steinbeck prefers to be always with common people and to be their devoted and important interrogator during times of crisis. He touches upon those torments of the soul which enroot insecurely in any human heart. All in all, he is under the power of the problem of knowledge and the elevating influence of art. In Steinbeck's critical literary manner, the main asset is an extraordinary technique, an interesting view of the problems, the multifaceted nature of ideas, and the ethical contemplation of usual happenings.

**Biographical Information**

John Steinbeck was an American writer who made a significant contribution to the development of US literature. His literary activity was closely connected with the American people, and he was always with the common people, revealing their lives, troubles, hunger, lack

of love, and happiness. Although he was born into a middle-class family, he often encountered the harsh and troubled world of workers. During his student years, he performed hard manual labor. Studying was a rare vacation from work. He worked as a laborer, waitress, apprentice, railroad worker, farmer, and film worker. These activities significantly influenced his personality and views on life. In his early short stories, he was deeply interested in the lives of ordinary people who lived in rural areas. Almost all his life, Steinbeck lived in California and primarily dealt with issues in the Pacific states. He received a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from a university located in Salinas. Features such as ordinary people and workers, pain, love, and murder—the violent nature of California—were always connected with his work. In two years, he attended an academic course in animal biology at Stanford University. Then, with a rather short respite, Steinbeck began to work with great zeal on organizing the literary course of his further life, clearly experiencing flashes of his talent. His first novels turned out to be rather unsuccessful. Steinbeck was forced to improve his talent and writing within the framework of his chosen logical themes. His works became popular through straightforward presentation and appeals to our generation.

### **Literary Background**

John Steinbeck's creative work was influenced by the tradition of 19th- and early 20th-century American literature, and by contemporary writers. The Nobel Prize winner of 1962, Steinbeck, became famous only in the mid-thirties after the publication of his "Tortilla Flat," "Of Mice and Men," and "Grapes of Wrath." To the best of his achievements belong the novels "The Moon is Down," "Cannery Row," "The Wayward Bus," "East of Eden," and the cycle of marine stories "The Long Valley."

These works belong to fiction and depict how Steinbeck turned to his homeland, California, where climatic specifics shape the people of this land, their genre, general, and existential characteristics. As an aware humanist and a thoughtful thinker of the 20th century, Steinbeck cherished national literary traditions, especially proven by his artistic rethinking of the ancient plot of the biblical legend of Cain and Abel, transferred by the writer to the soil of recent California. One can consider the generation of the 30s and 40s, where the artist's genre was innovative compared to the initial portions of the years of the 50s and 60s, marked by the author's contemporary step in casting the literary epigram in "Grapes of Wrath."

One of the primary characteristics of Steinbeck's poetics is his use of symbolism. His works are replete with symbols that carry a deeper meaning, representing abstract ideas or notions that transcend the literal interpretation of the narrative. In *The Grapes of Wrath*, the Joads' truck is a symbol of their hope and resilience in the face of adversity. Similarly, the turtle in *The Grapes of Wrath* is a symbol of the vulnerable and the underprivileged. These symbols not only serve as a

narrative device to propel the story forward but also facilitate the poetical aspect of Steinbeck's writing, allowing readers to immerse themselves in the narrative and grasp the complexities of the human experience.

Another distinctive characteristic of Steinbeck's poetics is his use of imagery. His vivid descriptions of landscapes, characters, and settings create a rich tapestry of sensory experiences that transport readers to the world of his novels. In *East of Eden*, Steinbeck's depiction of the Salinas Valley is a masterpiece of imagination, evoking the beauty and vastness of the American landscape. The detailed descriptions of nature not only serve as a backdrop to the narrative but also are infused with a symbolic significance, reflecting the inner state of the characters and their emotional struggles.

Steinbeck's exploration of the human condition is another hallmark of his poetics. His works are concerned with the fundamental questions of human existence: the struggle between good and evil, the nature of morality, and the resilient human spirit. In *Of Mice and Men*, the theme of loneliness is explored through the characters of George and Lennie, while *The Grapes of Wrath* delves into the complexities of family, community, and social justice. Steinbeck's mastery lies in his ability to present these abstract concepts in a way that is both accessible and profound, rendering them with a poetic nuance that resonates deeply with readers.

Steinbeck's use of nature as a metaphor for the human condition is yet another characteristic of his poetics. His novels often blur the boundaries between the natural world and the human experience, using the cycles of nature to reflect the cycles of human life. In *The Winter of Our Discontent*, the theme of decay and renewal is explored through the change of seasons, while *East of Eden* is structured around the myth of the Fall and the cycle of birth and death. By using nature as a metaphor, Steinbeck creates a rich poetic landscape that speaks to the universal human experiences of love, loss, and transformation.

In addition to these characteristics, Steinbeck's poetics are marked by a deep sense of allegory and mythic allusion. His works often incorporate elements of mythology and allegory, which serve to enrich the narrative and add depth to the characters' experiences. *The Grapes of Wrath* is a prime example of this, as the Joad's' journey to California is modeled on the myth of the Exodus, while *East of Eden* is explicitly based on the biblical account of Cain and Abel. Steinbeck's use of allegory and mythic allusion not only creates a sense of continuity with the past but also serves to underscore the universal aspects of the human condition.

Finally, Steinbeck's poetics are characterized by a distinctive narrative voice that blends elements of realism and lyricism. His prose is marked by a spare, direct style that eschews ornate language in favor of a more straightforward, idiomatic expression. This style, often described as

Steinbeck's "American voice," is neither folksy nor overly sentimental, but rather a sincere and direct rendering of the American experience. In *In Dubious Battle*, the tone is gritty and realistic, while in *The Grapes of Wrath*, the narrative voice is tinged with a sense of lyricism and tenderness.

### **Conclusion.**

In conclusion, the poetics of John Steinbeck's works are characterized by a rich and diverse array of literary devices, from symbolism and imagery to allegory and mythic allusion. His exploration of the human condition, his use of nature as a metaphor for human experience, and his distinctive narrative voice all contribute to a poetic landscape that is at once profound, rich, and nuanced. Steinbeck's poetics not only enrich his novels but also offer a unique insight into the human condition, reflecting the universal themes and experiences that underpin our shared humanity.

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