

Expression of the National Spirit in English Literature

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Keywords: National Spirit, Literature, People, England and America, Writers and Poets.

Abstract: Exploring folk literature offers valuable insights into a nation's character, although defining this concept proves challenging. The national dilemma in literature stands as a crucial yet understudied area in contemporary literary criticism. Investigating this subject provides a fresh lens to examine authors' works, deepens understanding of their writings, and advances theories on national character. This study centres on the notion of national spirit within English literature, aiming to shed light on this intricate aspect of literary discourse. By focusing on the national character evident in English literary works, this research contributes to broader discussions surrounding cultural identity and its representation in literature.

1 INTRODUCTION

In contemporary society, literature and intercultural communication play increasingly significant roles. When engaging with individuals from different nations, we often carry preconceived notions about them. Understanding the basics of interethnic communication is crucial, as highlighted in artistic production. Exploring the representations of specific nationalities in media is essential.

Literature assumes a national form while addressing issues pertinent to all humanity, embodying the essence of a nation. It reflects pronounced heights of human expression, evolving alongside changing times and imaginations. The level of literature is defined by two key factors: national spirit and skill. Literature preserves the national spirit while elevating artistic representation to global heights.

English literature, with its unique cultural, social, and political characteristics, reflects the nation's distinctive development. From the 19th century onwards, English authors depicted characters from diverse social backgrounds, revealing hidden complexities beneath outward appearances. This nuanced portrayal of individuals, including both outwardly strong figures and those concealing vulnerabilities, distinguishes English literature and enriches its narrative landscape.

2 DISCUSSION & RESULTS

The examination of English national identity is evident in literary and journalistic pursuits, shaping societal futures. Literature prompts reflection on life's meaning, the voices of enlightenment, and intercultural dialogues (Purgina, 2018). The "Typical Englishman" embodies empiricism, practicality, and utilitarianism, prioritising logical reasoning over abstraction (Bradbury, 2010). Victorian England epitomises this trend, with a focus on anti-intellectualism and dogmatism (Bradbury, 2010).

Customs like tea-drinking and hobbies reflect national enthusiasm and individuality, while humour is fundamental, expressed through sophisticated characters (Zinchenko, 2021). Irony is a hallmark of English humour, offering a nuanced perspective (Purgina, 2018). English novels depict the "Typical Englishman," defining behavioural standards and facilitating intercultural communication (Purgina, 2018).

The English regard humour as crucial, with sophisticated characters providing comic relief (Purgina, 2018). English literature exhibits subtle and sophisticated humour, distinguishing it from other cultures (Purgina, 2018). Another reason the English are well-liked is their ability to laugh at themselves (Bradbury, 2010).

Moreover, the English national identity is deeply intertwined with literature and journalism, serving as a reflection of societal values and aspirations. Through literary and journalistic endeavours, English and American writers contemplate the future of their

societies and the essence of the European individual (Purgina, 2018). These pursuits not only capture the essence of national character but also contribute to cross-cultural understanding and dialogue.

The portrayal of the "Typical Englishman" in literature underscores key traits such as empiricism, practicality, and utilitarianism. These characteristics reflect a preference for logical reasoning and practicality over abstract concepts (Bradbury, 2010). Victorian England, in particular, exemplifies these traits, with a strong emphasis on anti-intellectualism and dogmatism (Bradbury, 2010).

Moreover, English customs and traditions offer insights into the national psyche. Practices like tea-drinking and hobbies serve as expressions of national enthusiasm and individuality. Additionally, humour plays a vital role in English culture, with sophisticated characters providing comic relief and irony offering a nuanced perspective (Purgina, 2018).

In the realm of intercultural communication, English literature serves as a bridge between nations, facilitating dialogue and understanding. By depicting the "Typical Englishman," literature defines behavioural standards and cultural norms, aiding in cross-cultural interactions (Purgina, 2018). Moreover, English humour, with its subtle and sophisticated nature, distinguishes the culture from others and fosters a sense of shared identity (Purgina, 2018).

Furthermore, the ability of the English to laugh at themselves enhances their likability and serves as a testament to their self-awareness and humility (Bradbury, 2010). This self-deprecating humour is evident in literary works and contributes to the overall charm of English culture.

In conclusion, English literature and journalism play a crucial role in shaping national identity and fostering intercultural understanding. Through the portrayal of the "Typical Englishman" and the exploration of societal values and aspirations, literature serves as a reflection of the English psyche. Moreover, humour, customs, and traditions further define the national character and contribute to cross-cultural dialogue and appreciation.

3 CONCLUSION

In essence, the essence of creativity lies in the profound appreciation of language's beauty and magic. A clear, concise, and symbolic articulation of ideas forms the cornerstone of literacy, with literature demanding an even higher level of integrity. Words are akin to a finely crafted necklace, illuminating the

overarching meaning, and it is through these linguistic gems that English and American writers offer invaluable insights into national tendencies. Their words resonate with artistic brilliance, serving as a testament to the richness and uniqueness of folk literature. British and American writers and poets have indelibly shaped the literary landscape, infusing it with their distinct expression of the national spirit. Through their works, they have enriched our understanding of culture, heritage, and human experience, leaving an indelible mark on the world of literature.

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