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# THE WORK OF DAVID MITCHELL AND HIS POSITION IN ENGLISH **LITERATURE**

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Ruzieva Saodat Hasanovna Esp Teacher, Bukhara State Medical Institute, Uzbekistan

#### **ABSTRACT**

Postmodern literature representatives and their works have an incomparable place in modern literary studies. The distinctive features of postmodern literature are clearly visible in the works of David Mitchell, a major figure in postmodern literature. This article discusses the work of David Mitchell and his place in English literature.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Postmodernism, modernism, artistic movement, post-structuralism, English literature, subjectivity, society of spectacle.

#### INTRODUCTION

In the second half of the 20th century, the era of postmodernism begins in the social and cultural life of society, which reflects a special worldview that arose as a result of the historical upheavals of the first half of the 20th century. This attitude was designated by the term postmodern sensitivity - this is "the feeling of the world as chaos, where there are no criteria for value and semantic orientation." Philosophers and literary scholars sought to identify the basis of postmodern sensibility: Ihab Hassan, David Lodge, Christopher Butler, Christine Brook-Rose, Douwe Fokkema, Jean-Francois Lyotard, Wolfgang Welsch and many others. However, they all saw in it an expression of the "spirit of the era", and recognized as its main theorists Roland Barthes, Jacques Derrida, Julia Kristeva, Gilles Deleuze, Felix Guattari and other French thinkers of the second

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half of the 20th century. Following the postmodern sensibility, postmodernism as a whole has received the status of expression of the "zeitgeist".

Postmodernism was conceptualized both as an artistic movement in literature and other forms of art, and as a specific literary methodology, that is, as a theoretical reflection on this phenomenon in art.

The main features of postmodernism as an artistic movement are: "immanence" and "uncertainty", irony in relation to all manifestations of life and irony as the basic principle of artistry, eclecticism, understanding of the world and history as a text, intertextuality and hypertextuality, a mixture of mass and elitist and, as consequence, the emergence of the so-called double code, deconstruction, decentration of the narrative and the death of the author, fragmentation of the narrative. Postmodernism as an artistic trend, having arisen in the second half of the 20th century from the philosophy of poststructuralism, is today one of the leading artistic methods. The list of modern postmodern writers includes the name of David Mitchell.

David Mitchell is the author of seven novels, the latest of which, Slade House, was published in 2015 and in Russia at the end of last year. His first novel, Ghostwritten, published in 1999, covers literally the whole world - moving from Okinawa to Hong Kong, Mongolia, St. Petersburg, London, and ending in New York just before the millennium. In the novel itself, there are 9 narrators - 9 stories that intersect and form a single whole. For his debut novel, Mitchell received the John Llewelyn Rice Award for Best Author Under 35, as well as the Guardian Magazine Award for Best Literary Debut.

The second novel, Dream No. 9 (number 9 dream, 2001), was nominated for the James Tate Award and shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In this novel, Mitchell did not resort to mixing different voices and genres, but created a single storyline that tells the story of a Japanese teenager searching for his father in modern Tokyo.

In 2004, the third novel, Cloud Atlas, was released, in which Mitchell returns to the polyphony he used in The Literary Ghost. The novel was also shortlisted for the Booker Prize, won the British Book Literary Fiction Award, was named the British Book Awards Richard and Judy Best Read of the Year, and was named Best Young British Writer by Granta magazine. In addition, in 2007 Time magazine placed the name of David Mitchell in the list of the most influential people in the literary world. In 2012, the novel was filmed by Tom Tykver and the Vachovski sisters (starring Tom Hanks, Halle Berry, Hugh Grant, Jim Broadbent, Ben Vhishav, Hugo Weaving, Susan Sarandon), becoming, with a budget of over \$100 million, the most expensive independent film in the world. cinematographic history. The film is interesting for the director's decision, which conveys the idea of the rebirth of the soul and the connection of times: different characters in different eras are played by the same actors.

Mitchell's fourth novel, Black Swan Green, was released in 2006 and was nominated for a Costa Award as well as a Times Magazine Award in Los Angeles; his fifth novel, The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet (2010), was named the best book of the year by Time Magazine. The works of David Mitchell have been translated into 25 languages and are very popular.

Mitchell's last novel would not be published until after 2114. The writer took part in a project by Scottish artist

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Kathy Paterson and donated the manuscript of From Me Flows What You Call Time to the Library of the Future in May 2016.

Most of D. Mitchell's novels are based on the principle of playing with the genre, composition, plot, characters and, as a result, with the mind of the reader. The novel "Cloud Atlas" (Cloud atlas, 2004) is one of such works by Mitchell. It can be compared with a literary puzzle, a puzzle, as the author transfers the principle of organizing the musical form of the sextet to the composition of the novel, plays with the genre of the work, implementing the concept of genre synthesis, uses the metaliterary form "text in text". The work contains the main features of postmodern literature: narrative fragmentation, parody, "erasing" the boundaries between a literary work and the reader, decentered narration, the concept of "author's death", etc.

To date, the works of D. Mitchell are very popular with both readers and philologists. The interest in studying the work of D. Mitchell is due to the experimental nature of his texts. The writer plays with the form and genre of the work, creates a text that directly interacts with the reader. Such a fragmentary and, moreover, all-encompassing narrative without the dominance of the author over the reader speaks of the postmodernist poetics of Mitchell's work. In addition, the realization in his work of the concept of interaction between literature and other arts, in particular music, The transfer of the principle of is of interest. constructing a musical work to a literary work in Cloud Atlas gives rise to a special novel form - a combination of a sextet novel and a map novel. All this contributed to the recognition of Mitchell as one of the leading British novelists of the 21st century, and his name has

become familiar to English-language textbooks on the history of the modern British novel.

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