УДК 929

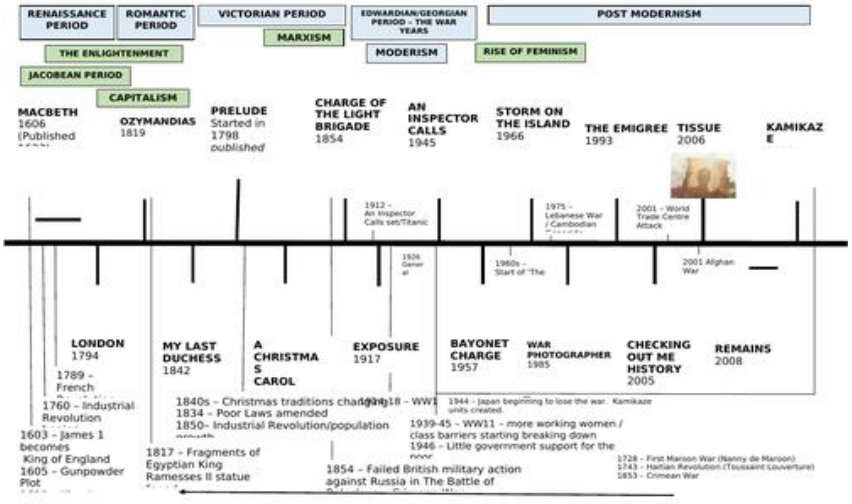
THE INFLUENCE OF BRITISH LITERATURE ON WORLD CULTURE

A. Titarova, group CE-22-2
S. Shcherbyna, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor
Central Ukrainian National Technical University

British literature holds a significant place in global culture, shaping the development of literary genres, styles, and ideas. From medieval ballads to modern bestsellers, the works of British authors set global trends in literature. Writers such as William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, and J.K. Rowling have had a lasting impact, with their works translated into numerous languages and studied in schools worldwide. British literature has also profoundly influenced cinema, theatre, and other art forms. To better understand this phenomenon, we will explore the key stages of British literature and its impact on other cultures.

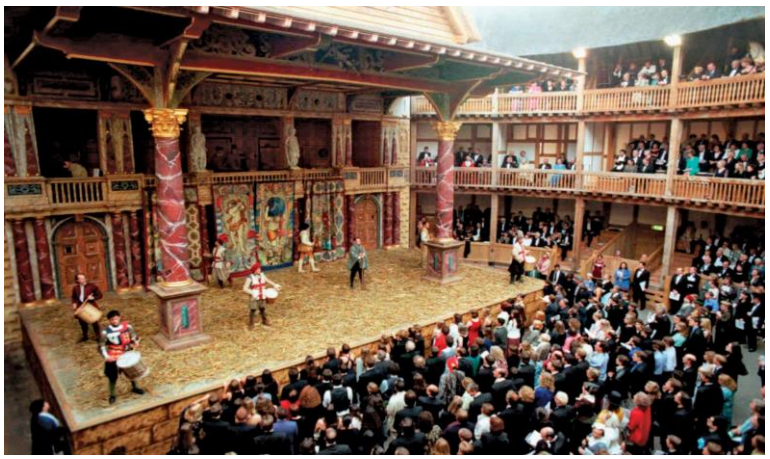
The Importance of British Literature in a Global Context. British literature is an integral part of world cultural heritage. It has shaped key literary genres, such as the novel, drama, and poetry, serving as a model for writers across the globe. Shakespeare's plays laid the foundation for modern theatre, while the novels of Jane Austen and Charles Dickens contributed to the development of realism in literature. Many British books have become part of school curricula worldwide, shaping the perspectives of new generations. Through British authors, literature has become a powerful tool for expressing social ideas, critiquing society, and promoting cultural identity. Thus, British literature extends far beyond its homeland, becoming a universal treasure [1].

A Brief Overview of Major Literary Periods. British literature has evolved over centuries, passing through distinct phases. Medieval literature featured epic poems like Beowulf and the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, such as The Canterbury Tales. The Renaissance era saw the rise of Shakespeare, whose works became the cornerstone of modern drama. The 18th and 19th centuries marked the golden age of the realistic novel, with contributions from Dickens, Austen, and the Brontë sisters. The 20th century introduced experimental forms, with modernist writers such as Virginia Woolf and James Joyce. In the 21st century, British literature remains highly influential, particularly in the fantasy and detective genres.



Picture 2 – English Literature Context Timeline

The Influence of William Shakespeare on Theatre and Cinema. William Shakespeare is one of the most renowned playwrights in history. His works, including Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, and Macbeth, have become classics of world theatre. His plays remain relevant even after 400 years, thanks to their deep psychological insights and universal themes. Shakespeare's influence extends beyond theatre to cinema, with numerous film adaptations ranging from traditional productions to modern interpretations. His dramatic techniques and storytelling have shaped the foundations of theatre and screenwriting. Thus, Shakespeare's legacy continues to define the evolution of global arts [2].

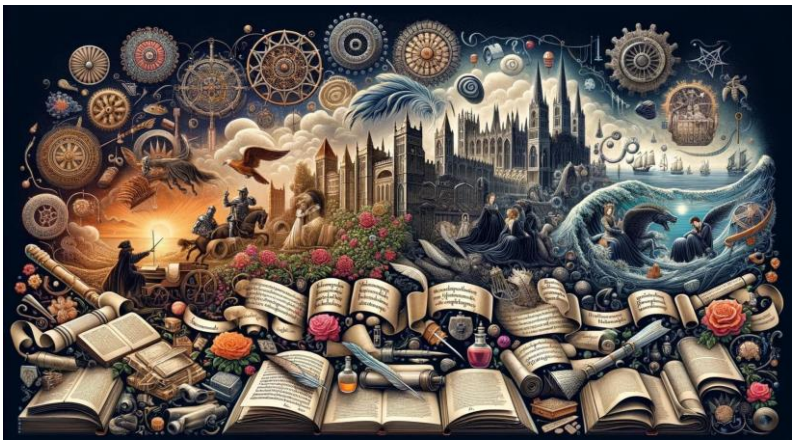


Picture 2 – Shakespearean Language: The Cornerstone of Modern Acting

The Role of 19th-Century British Novelists. The 19th century was a golden age for the British novel, shaping literature worldwide. Jane Austen established the foundations of the realistic novel, exploring social and familial relationships in works such as Pride and Prejudice. Charles Dickens highlighted issues of poverty and social inequality in novels like Oliver Twist and Great Expectations, which carried significant social messages. The Brontë sisters introduced new perspectives on women's roles in literature and society, as reflected in Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights. Through these authors, British literature set the standard for future prose writing [3].

Modern British Literature and Its Popularity. Contemporary British writers continue the traditions of the past while adapting to new realities. One of the most striking examples is J.K. Rowling, whose Harry Potter series became a global phenomenon. Her books revitalized interest in reading among young audiences and had a tremendous cultural impact. Other modern authors, such as Ian McEwan, Kazuo Ishiguro, and Sally Rooney, explore social and moral issues in their works. British literature maintains its international influence, shaping new literary trends and addressing contemporary concerns.

The Reflection of British Culture in World Literature. British culture is deeply connected to its literary heritage, and many of its elements have become globally recognizable. For example, the character of Sherlock Holmes, created by Arthur Conan Doyle, became a cultural icon and influenced the detective genre worldwide. British fantasy literature, from J.R.R. Tolkien to J.K. Rowling, has popularized the fantasy genre, creating magical worlds that captivate readers globally. Literary works have also helped spread British traditions, language, and history to a wider audience. As a result, British culture continues to thrive in world literature.



Picture 3 – The evolution of English Literature

Conclusion. British literature plays a crucial role in shaping the global cultural landscape. From Shakespeare to modern authors, it remains a source of inspiration for writers, filmmakers, and readers. Its contributions to the development of genres, themes, and stylistic approaches are invaluable. In the 21st century, British literature continues to evolve, blending tradition with contemporary trends. It remains an essential element of world culture, retaining its influence and relevance.

References

1. Crystal, David. The Stories of English. Penguin, 2004.
2. Bloom, Harold. Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human. Riverhead Books, 1998.
3. McCrum, Robert. The 100 Best Novels in English. Guardian, 2015.