



## THE CONCEPT OF THE TRAGIC IN THE WRITINGS OF J. CAROL OATES

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Article history:	Abstract:
<b>Received:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	The article is devoted to the problem of tragedy which has become one of the defining issue in J.K.Oates works, arises in American literature at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, when the screaming contradictions of national imperialism escalate to the limit. The isolation of man, his isolation from the world and existence without any connection is the leitmotif of all Oates' early work. As a result, one of the typical features of the early prose of the American writer is a certain narrowness of the social range and an emphasis on the significance of the irrational principle. The whole tragedy of the existence of the heroes of Oates' early works lies in the impossibility and simply in the unwillingness to live in the interests of loved ones.
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From the very beginning of J.K. Oates' artistic formation, the problem of tragedy, penetrating all levels of American life, was determined to be dominant in her work. Corruption, violence, the mutual alienation of people as integral features of modern capitalist America, are the main object of the image of a talented prose writer. The problem of 'tragic America', which has become one of the defining ones in Oates's work, arises in American literature at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, when the screaming contradictions of national imperialism escalate to the limit. Under these conditions, the crisis of the 'American dream', the corruption of the individual and its doom in the capitalist world, is becoming more and more tangible. American realist writers of different eras, each in their own unique way, solved the problems of tragic conflicts and conflicts rooted in the bourgeois nature of the 'democratic' United States. This question has its genesis and its evolution. And yet there are years indicated by American editions. Having absorbed the best that distinguished American realist writers of previous eras, J.K. Oates created her own bright and unique artistic world. Its originality lies primarily in the writer's emphasis on the tragic lines of human fate in a large capitalist city, an impartial display of universal alienation and spiritual isolation.

The isolation of man, his isolation from the world and existence without any connection is the leitmotif of all Oates' early work. As a result, one of the typical features of the early prose of the American writer is a certain narrowness of the social range and an emphasis on the significance of the irrational principle. Hence the motives of the forces that dominate from above and

stop the very possibility of human happiness and the joy of being. However, Oates does not blur the line between mystical forces and the real world, preferring reality to its idealistic surrogates. In the works of the 60s, the writer offers her heroes the only way out of the impasse of spiritual suffering: in order to preserve their own individuality, it is necessary to break out of the shackling fetters of bourgeois society and plunge into a narrow personal sphere. But even here people will be disappointed, because everywhere they meet only hostility and misunderstanding. The whole tragedy of the existence of the heroes of Oates' early works lies in the impossibility and simply in the unwillingness to live in the interests of loved ones. Cruelty and violence do not allow people to find a spiritual community; not being able to bring any specific accusations against their family members (namely, intra-family alienation becomes the object of Oates' research in the first period of creativity), Oates' characters nevertheless feel dissatisfaction that develops into a real spiritual catastrophe. This motivation for the mood of Oates' characters makes it possible to note the connection between the writer's early novels and existentialism. Fatal love, the tragedy of a failed family become a vicious circle of life. The cult of violence, outbursts of unbridled rage, murder - these are the realities that not a single novel by an American writer of the first stage of artistic formation could do without. However, Oates' way of depicting life remains realistic, despite existentialist motifs and naturalistic scenes. Evidence of this is the depth of the novelist in the social motivation of the characters' actions.



In the course of the development of public and artistic views, J.K. Oates comes to a different formula for the search for self-affirmation of the individual. She believes that a person should prove himself in a social struggle, start searching for his place in life with an attempt to influence the world around him. The heroes of the novel 'Angel of Light', despite their participation in acts of terrorism, have a very definite life credo - to punish those who are guilty of malicious political crimes. In one of the last major works, the novel 'Mary: Life', the heroine evolves from a representative of literary science to a political fighter, striving to establish the principles of justice in all spheres of life.

Speaking of the tradition that JK Oates inherits as an American literary critic. She persistently goes to her goal - to become a writer-politician: 'She was something like an Amazon, a woman-warrior, paving her way confidently and unshakably' [1,276]. So, believing in her own strength, Knauer completed her graduate school, creating a work on American prose of the mid-19th century. These pages form the climax of the novel. It is here that the author reveals one very striking feature of Mary's personality: her inner struggle with herself. But unlike other works by Oates, the conflicts that tear apart the consciousness of the heroine of this book are by no means insurmountable. Complete confusion and confusion of consciousness explains the absence of a clear positive hero in the novels of the 60s and 70s. In the novel 'Mary: Life', the situation is quite different. At the age of twenty-five, Maria entered the College of New Hampshire, where she became a professor. Continuing to publish articles in the journal 'Meridian', whose editor soon became her good friend, she realized that all these publications did not speak in favor of her scientific work. Engaging in politics was not a prestigious business for teachers. And the very system of higher education in the United States is riddled with corruption[2.68]. The college is highly competitive: 'Eight professors apply for two positions, eleven professors for two positions. Endless bibliographic sheets and embarrassed requests for letters of recommendation from scholars from other colleges'. Tired of all the troubles and from the eternal fear of not being able to withstand the competition, Maria wants to die. On a bike ride with her colleague Gregory, after a minor injury, she exclaimed in annoyance: 'I should have broken my neck. It would solve all my problems'. So, in the Kansk literature, we will consider T. Dreiser's 'American Tragedy' as the starting point. But, highlighting the tragic aspect in the works of Oates, we should not forget about another powerful source of this kind of ideas and ideas - the work of F. M. Dostoevsky.

The tragic outlook of Dostoevsky acquired an extremely topical sound in the 20th century. Having devoted many critical studies to the great Russian writer, Oates could not but absorb into her work a number of ideological and artistic features of the novels of the realist classic. The heroes of Oates, like the heroes of Dostoevsky, rebel against the existing order, although this protest does not always have a clearly defined form. They are characterized by social action aimed at changing the vicious world. The clash of man and society as a whole, man against man within a cruel and imperfect world is a wide field for studying the problem of the tragic. Thus, the tragic in Oates is an important tool for artistic knowledge of reality and an essential element of her writer's consciousness.

J.K. Oates is a major representative of contemporary critical realism in US literature. The originality of the realistic method of Oates and most of her works lies in the writer's tragic view of American reality, in the wide use of the naturalistic element and existentialist modes in artistic practice. The writer herself has repeatedly expressed the following attitude to this kind of assessment of her artistic world: 'I do not admit that I am excessively cruel in my writing work. Most of my novels and short stories are studies of modern life, interpreted in a realistic way, which can be called a tragic and humanistic attitude'.

In the novels 'Son of the Morning' / 1978 /, 'Cybele' / 1979 / and 'Unholy Love' / 1979 /, the novelist's desire to touch upon the serious problems of the United States - 'spiritual thirst, unquenchable in the context of a protracted socio-ethical crisis that has gripped the country'. The novel 'Son of the Morning' reveals the musty atmosphere of provincial America, the lack of spiritual and social interests of the people living in it. Here you can clearly see the anti-religious attitude of the writer, who from the positions of a humanist and materialist convincingly reveals the inhuman essence of the Christian doctrine. But no matter how specific the plot of the story may be, it will most likely be just another interpretation of the main theme for Oates - the theme of human alienation, the splitting of natural interpersonal ties. Roman 'Cybele', also in many ways traditional for Oates. The conflict itself is also traditional, where behind the external well-being of the protagonist lies internal dissatisfaction and longing. It is they who encourage Edwin Locke, a prosperous businessman, to destroy the life stereotype to which he is accustomed and without which he could not do before. Oates exposes with great force and expressiveness the shadow aspects of the life of the 'democratic' state. The novel 'Unholy Love' is a successful recreation by the



writer of the academic world of America, in which there has long been no real spiritual and intellectual life, which is in the self-satisfied consciousness of its privilege, essentially removed from public life. Oates, is an ardent opponent of the careerism, arrogance and unscrupulousness that infects many 'learned' men of the country's higher educational institutions. In the novel, satirical intonations are sometimes heard. Here, the faith of the original American writer in the humanistic function of art, in its ability to serve people, overcoming disunity and enmity, is also revealed.

An important quality of her writing style is the artistic vision and mastery of the surrounding reality, which is fundamental in its originality and independence. Analyzing one of the first and most successful novels - the novel 'The Garden of Earthly Delights', we can single out Oates' ability to see the big, universal behind the small, private. Speaking about the problems of modern American literature, J.K. Oates stands firmly on a realistic position.

Joyce Carol Oates is one of the most significant and sophisticated contemporary prose writers in the United States of America. Her work is ambiguous, contradictory in many respects, but in his best works Oates acts as a major realist artist, truthfully reflecting American reality.

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